

the purpose of circumventing the dollar value limitations as specified by ordinance.

No contract shall be amended after the same has been made except upon authority of the Council, provided that the City Manager may amend contracts for those purchases and sales made by him under the authority of Section 13.1.

No compensation shall be paid to any contractor except in accordance with the terms of the contract.

No contract shall be made with any person, firm, or corporation in default to the City.

CHAPTER 14

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND PARKS

APPROPRIATION OR SALE OF PROPERTY:

Section 14.1. The City Council shall have the **authority** to purchase, acquire, and appropriate such real estate and other private property as may be necessary for public grounds, cemeteries, parks, buildings, and other purposes, necessary or convenient for the public good. The Council may acquire, purchase, and erect or dispose of, buildings or grounds when necessary provided that any sale or other disposition shall be made subject to the general laws of the State and Federal government.

PROPERTY BEYOND CITY LIMITS:

Section 14.2. When the Council shall deem it necessary for the public interest, grounds and buildings for necessary public uses may be purchased, erected, and maintained beyond the corporate limits of the City.

REGULATION - PARK GROUNDS:

Section 14.3. The City Council shall have authority to lay out, establish and enlarge public park grounds, and to provide for the improvement, lighting, and ornamentation of the same. The City Council shall have the responsibility to regulate the care thereof, and to provide for the protection of the same and the appurtenances thereof from obstructions, encroachments and injury, and from all nuisances. The Council shall not vacate, discontinue, sell, lease, trade, nor divert to other public use any public park grounds without first securing the approval of a **majority** of the electors of the City voting thereon in any election.

CHAPTER 15

GENERAL PROVISIONS

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; BOARD OF ETHICS:

Section 15.1 (a). Conflicts of Interests. The use of public office for private gain is prohibited. The City Council shall implement this prohibition by ordinance. Regulations to this end shall include but not be limited to: acting in an official capacity on matters in which the official has a private financial interest clearly separate from that of the general public; the acceptance of gifts and other things of value; acting in a private capacity on matters dealt with as a public official; the use of confidential information; and appearances by city officials before other city agencies on behalf of private interest. This ordinance shall provide for reasonable public

disclosure of finances by officials with major **decision-**making authority over monetary expenditures and contractual matters and, insofar as permissible under State law, shall provide for fines and imprisonment for violations. The provisions of this ordinance shall apply except where preempted by State or Federal Law.

(b). Board of Ethics. The City Council shall, by ordinance, establish an independent Board of Ethics to administer and enforce the conflict of interest and financial disclosure ordinances. No member of the Board may hold elective or appointed office under the City **or** any other government or hold any political party office. Insofar as possible under State law, the City Council shall authorize the Board to issue binding advisory opinions, conduct investigations on its own initiative and, on referral or complaint, refer cases for prosecution, impose administrative fines, and hire independent counsel. The City Council shall appropriate sufficient funds to the Board of Ethics to enable it to perform the duties assigned to it.

PROHIBITIONS:

Section 15.2 (a).
Activities Prohibited.

(1) No person shall be appointed to, or removed from, or in any way favored or discriminated against with **respect to** any city position or appointive city administrative office because of race, gender, **age,** handicap, religion, country of origin, or political affiliation.

(2) No person shall

willfully make any false statement, certificate, mark, rating, or report in regard to any test, certification, or appointment under the provisions of this Charter **or** the rules and regulations made thereunder, or in any manner commit or **attempt** to commit any fraud preventing the impartial execution of such provisions, rules, and regulations.

(3) No person who seeks appointment or promotion with respect to any City position or appointive City administrative office shall directly or indirectly give, render or pay any money, service or other valuable thing to any person for or in connection with his or her test, appointment, proposed appointment, promotion, or proposed promotion.

(4) No person shall knowingly or willfully solicit or assist in soliciting any assessment, subscription, or contribution for any political party or political purpose to be used in conjunction with any City election from any City employee.

(b). Penalties. Any person convicted of a violation of this section -shall be ineligible to hold any City office or position for a period of five (5) years following such conviction. Any officer or employee of the city convicted of a violation of this section shall immediately forfeit his or her office or position and shall be ineligible to hold any city office or position for a period of five **(5)** years following such conviction. The City Council shall establish by ordinance such penalties as it may deem appropriate.