

House Bill No. 953

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An act relating to the city of Trenton, mayor and city manager; amending section 11(a) and adding section 11(g) of the city charter, chapter 27940, Laws of Florida, 1951; prescribing powers and duties of mayor-commissioner; providing for appointment, powers and duties of a city manager; providing effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 11 of chapter 27940, Laws of Florida, 1951, is amended and subsection (g) is added thereto, to read:

Section 11.(a) The mayor-commissioner of Trenton, Florida, shall preside at all meetings of the commission and perform such other duties consistent with his office as may be imposed by it, and he shall have a voice and a vote in the proceedings of the commission, but no veto power. He may use the title of mayor-commissioner in any case in which the execution of legal instruments of writing or other necessity arising from the general laws of the state so requires; but this shall not be considered as conferring upon him the administrative or judicial functions of a mayor-commissioner under the general laws of the state. He shall be recognized as the official head of the city by the courts for the purpose of serving civil processes, by the government in the exercise of military law, and for all ceremonial purposes. He may take command of the police and govern the city by proclamation during times of grave public danger or emergency, and he shall himself be the judge of what constitutes such danger or emergency. The

powers and duties of the mayor-commissioner shall be such as are conferred upon him by the city commission in pursuance of the provisions of this charter, and no other. In the absence of the mayor-commissioner the other members of the city commission shall select one of their number to perform his duties.

(g) The city commission shall appoint a city manager who shall be the administrative head of the municipal government under the direction and supervision of the city commission, and he shall hold office at the pleasure of the city commission. He shall be chosen solely on the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications, and he need not be a resident of the city or state at the time of his appointment. He shall receive a salary to be fixed by the city commission. No person who has served on the city commission shall be eligible for appointment to the office of city manager until two (2) years after he has ceased to be a member of the commission. During the absence or disability of the city manager, the city commission may designate some properly qualified person to temporarily execute the function of the office. The city manager shall be responsible to the city commission for the proper administration of all affairs of the city and to that end, his powers are:

1. To see that the laws and ordinances are enforced;
2. Except as hereinafter specifically provided, to appoint and remove all subordinate officers and employees of the city; all appointments to be made upon merit and fitness alone;
3. To exercise control and direct supervision over all departments and divisions of the municipal government

under this charter, or which may be created by the city commission, including public utilities owned by the city;

4. To see that all benefits inuring to the inhabitants of the city in any public utility franchise are received;

5. To attend all meetings of the city commission and its committees;

6. To recommend to the commission for adoption such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient in the interests of the city;

7. To keep the city commission fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the city and to submit for its consideration an annual budget;

8. To perform such other duties as may be prescribed under this charter or as may be required of him by ordinance or resolution of the city commission;

9. To act as purchasing agent for the city, by whom all purchases of supplies shall be made and he shall approve all vouchers for the payment of same. In the capacity of purchasing agent he shall also conduct all sales of personal property which the commission may authorize to be sold as having become unnecessary or unfit for the city's use. All purchases and sales shall conform to such regulations as the city commission may from time to time prescribe; but in any case, if an amount in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) be involved, opportunity for competition shall be given.

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State MAY 11 1965

CHAPT 65-2331

2693

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to the city of Trenton, Gilchrist county, revenue certificates and bonds; repealing sections 31 and 33 of chapter 27940, Laws of Florida, 1951, relating to the issuance of such instruments.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Sections 31 and 33 of chapter 27940, Laws of Florida, 1951, are repealed.

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way line of U. S. Highway No. 1; thence North 85 deg. East 90.7 ft. parallel to and 1 ft. South of a wire fence; thence North 86 deg. 52 min. East 655.2 ft. parallel to and 1 ft. East of a wire fence; thence North 54 deg. 24 min. West 399.6 ft. parallel to and 1 ft. North of a wire fence to the water's edge of the city yacht basin; thence South and Westerly 720 ft., more or less, and meandering the waters of the yacht basin and rock wall to a wire fence; thence South 32 deg. 10 min. West 65.4 ft. parallel to and 1 ft. West of a wire fence to the right-of-way line of U. S. Highway No. 1; thence Southeasterly 690 ft. more or less, with the right-of-way line of U. S. Highway No. 1 to point of beginning.

Section 2. That said City be and it is hereby authorized to grant such easements as said City may deem advisable for the use of the Yacht Basin in said City.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 7, 1951.

CHAPTER 27939—(No. 1460)

HOUSE BILL NO. 1292

AN ACT Abolishing the City Primary Elections in the City of Titusville, Florida; and Providing for the Election of City Councilmen at the City General Election.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. That the primary elections provided by law for the City of Titusville, Florida, be and the same are hereby abolished.

Section 2. That at the regular general election provided for by law, the five persons receiving the highest number of votes for City Councilmen shall be elected as City Councilmen. In the event of a tie vote, the City Council in office at the time of such election shall choose a councilman from the candidates receiving such tie vote.

Section 3. That the general election in said city shall be held in such manner and at such time and place or places, as the City

Council shall, by ordinance provide; and said ordinance shall also provide for the time and manner of qualifications of candidates. When not otherwise provided by ordinance, the general election laws of the State of Florida shall apply so far as applicable.

Section 4. That all laws and parts of laws in conflict herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

Section 5. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 1951.

CHAPTER 27940—(No. 1461)

HOUSE BILL, NO. 1237

AN ACT to Abolish the Present Municipal Government of the City of Trenton, Florida, and to Create and Organize a Municipality to be Known and Designated as the City of Trenton, Florida, and to Define Its Territorial Boundaries and to Provide for Its Government, Jurisdiction, Powers, Privileges, Franchise and Immunities and Confirm Its Title to All City Property, and Prescribing the General and Special Powers to be Exercised by Said City.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. The present municipal government of the City of Trenton, Florida is hereby abolished.

Section 2. The inhabitants of the City of Trenton, Florida, within the boundaries hereinafter designated, or within such boundaries as may hereafter be established, shall continue to be a body politic and corporate under the name "CITY OF TRENTON, FLORIDA", and as such shall have perpetual succession, may have and use a common seal and change it at its pleasure, may contract and be contracted with, and may sue and be sued and be impleaded in all courts of this state and in all matters whatsoever.

Section 3. The boundaries of the City of Trenton, Florida shall be as follows:

All of Section Sixteen (16); the East Half of the East Half ($E\frac{1}{2}$ of $E\frac{1}{2}$) of Section Seventeen (17), and the South Half of the Southwest Quarter ($S\frac{1}{2}$ of $SW\frac{1}{4}$) of Section Nine (9), all in Township Ten (10) South, Range Fifteen (15) East, of Gilchrist County, Florida.

Section 4. The City of Trenton shall succeed to, own, possess and hold all property, real, personal or mixed, all uncollected taxes, dues, claims, judgments and choses in action heretofore owned, possessed or held by the municipality abolished, and shall have, exercise and enjoy all the rights, immunities, powers, benefits, privileges and franchises now possessed, owned or held by it.

All Ordinances and resolutions lawfully passed and in force in said city under its former organization shall remain in force until altered or repealed by the Board of Commissioners provided for under the provisions of this act; and all rights and property of every description which were vested in said city under its former organization shall vest in the city under the organization herein contemplated and no right, obligation or contract of the said city, including bonds heretofore issued, shall be affected, impaired or voided by this act, but all rights shall be preserved and all debts, contracts and obligations shall be obligations upon and enforceable against the new municipality.

Section 5. Without denial or disparagement of other powers now held or that may hereafter be given to the city of Trenton under the Constitution or laws of the State of Florida, the City of Trenton shall have power:

(a) All the powers given to municipal corporations and the officers thereof under the General Laws of this State, in existence or that may hereafter be passed, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Charter.

(b) The power to purchase, lease, receive and hold property, real and personal and mixed, within the said city, and may sell, lease or otherwise dispose of the same for the benefit of the city, and may purchase, lease, receive and hold property, real and personal beyond the limits of the city to be used for the burial of the dead, for the erection of water works, for the establishment of poorhouses, pest houses and houses of detention and correction, for public parks, recreation parks and pavilions, municipal hospitals, golf courses, air ports, and buildings incident thereto.

(c) The city shall have the power and authority to acquire, own, hold, build, construct and operate such garbage disposal equipment or garbage disposal plants as may to the governing authority seem advisable and best for the protection of the city. The city shall have the power and authority to impose by ordinance a charge or fee for the service of garbage collection rendered by the city of Trenton.

(d) In addition to the acquisition and ownership of real estate and personal property above provided for, the city is authorized to own and operate said property, for such other public purposes as the Board of Commissioners and Mayor-Commissioner may deem necessary and proper, and may sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of said property for the benefit of the city to the same extent that natural persons may do, provided that before said city shall lease any real estate owned by the city for a term exceeding ten years, such proposed lease for a term of more than ten years shall be submitted to a vote of those persons who are freeholders of property situated within the city limits and are otherwise qualified to vote at city elections, at an election to be called by the Board of Commissioners of said city, and a majority of the votes cast shall be in favor thereof, except as hereinafter provided for.

(e) The city of Trenton shall have the power to fix a valuation upon the property within its limits, both real and personal, for the purpose of taxation, independent of such valuation as may be fixed by the State; to make a special assessment upon property benefited for the purpose of building sidewalks, constructing sewers, and grading, paving and curbing streets, and promenades, and to subject itself to a bond indebtedness for the purpose of building sidewalks, constructing sewers and grading, paving and curbing streets, for water works, securing protection from fire, or for such other public municipal improvements as the mayor-commissioner and the board of commissioners shall decide upon.

(f) It shall have the power by ordinance, to require the owner or agents of vacant lots or other property within the city of Trenton to clean the same of weeds and remove therefrom any stagnant pools of water and other matter injurious to the public health, and to prescribe the penalty for the violation thereof, and in case such owners or their agent fail to comply with the requirements of said ordinance, to have the work done, and to assess the cost

thereof against such property, the cost to be a lien against the property improved. The city shall enforce the collection thereof in the same manner as taxes or liens are collected that may be due upon real property.

(g) By ordinance or otherwise, to define, prevent or abate nuisances; to restrain and punish gambling or other disorderly conduct; to prevent running at large of cattle, horses, dogs, cats, fowls, sheep, hogs and goats in the streets of the city or within the city limits; to provide for the purchasing or establishing of water works, electric or other lighting plants, and all other plants necessary for the city and to provide for the regulation thereof; to regulate the speed at which bicycles, automobiles or other vehicles may be ridden, driven or propelled through the streets of the city; to regulate the speed at which street or other railway cars, locomotives or motors shall run in the city limits; to license privileges, businesses, occupations and professions carried on and engaged in within the city limits, and the amounts of such taxes shall not be dependent upon the general state revenue law; to establish quarantine and health regulations for the City of Trenton not inconsistent with the rules and regulations of the State Board of Health; to organize and provide a fire department and to regulate the same so as to protect the city from fire; to establish fire limits and to prescribe the character and mode of construction of buildings to be erected or repaired therein, and the materials to be used in the construction and repair thereof; to regulate the numbering of houses and lots and to compel owners of houses and other buildings to have the number thereof shown conspicuously thereon; to provide for and authorize city planning and zoning and to regulate and control the agencies therefor; to establish hospitals, and, in conjunction with the Board of County Commissioners, to establish rules and regulations respecting the poor, indigent, infirm and insane, and to provide for their support and to fix the conditions upon which said persons coming into the city shall be allowed to remain; to provide for the punishment of persons who may at any time disturb the peace of the city or violate any of its ordinances or any rules and regulations of the Board of Commissioners; to fix and regulate, from time to time, the salaries of the appointed or hired employees of the city, except as herein provided; to provide, erect, construct and maintain a city sewerage system and to compel property owners or occupants to connect with city sewers, and to do and regulate any other matter or thing that may tend

until January 1, 1952. All other officers of the city shall be appointed by the city commission.

Section 8. All elective officers of the city shall be qualified electors and freeholders of said city as provided for hereinafter in this Charter, and in addition thereto, shall be a resident of the city of Trenton. The term of all elective officers shall be for a term of two years from January first, following their election to such office.

If a vacancy shall occur in the office of the city commission or mayor-commissioner and the unexpired term of such vacancy shall be for a period of less than six months, said vacancy shall be filled by the majority of the remaining members of the city commission, but, in the event that the unexpired term of the vacated office is for more than six months, the commission shall call an election within thirty days from the date such vacancy occurs, to fill the office for the unexpired term.

Section 9. The mayor-commissioner of the city of Trenton and the other members of the Board of Commissioners, shall serve without compensation, except they may be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred while away from the city, on city business.

Section 10. (a) An election shall be held in the city of Trenton on the First Tuesday in December of each year for the election of commissioners whose terms shall expire the following January 1, or the mayor-commissioner whose term shall expire the following January 1, as the case may be. The commissioners, including the mayor-commissioner, elected at such election in December, 1951, shall each serve for a term of two years beginning January 1, 1952, unless his office be vacated by death, resignation or removal.

All candidates offering themselves to the electors for election under the provisions of this charter to the office of mayor-commissioner shall so announce and the ballot shall be so arranged that separate and distinct votes shall be cast for mayor-commissioner in all elections of the city of Trenton where a mayor-commissioner is to be elected.

(b) The Board of Commissioners of the city of Trenton shall by ordinance, prescribe the manner of holding both general and special elections not inconsistent with the provisions hereof; and shall provide registration books for the qualified electors of said

city. The board of commissioners shall also by ordinance, provide such polling place or places as they may deem expedient. The commissioners shall be a canvassing board for all elections held under this charter and as such board, shall meet on the Wednesday following every general election, and on the day following any and every other election held under this charter for the purpose of canvassing and declaring the results of said elections and they on said days of meeting shall declare the results of said elections.

(c) Any person over twenty-one years of age who shall register in the municipal election register, and is a citizen of the United States, a permanent resident living in Florida for one year and residing in the city of Trenton, Florida for six months, shall be qualified electors of the city of Trenton, in any election to be held for the selection of officers of the city, or in other matters administering the affairs of the city except bond elections, which shall be limited to freeholders residing within the city limits who shall meet the other qualifications specified above for elections at general election of officers.

(d) The provisions of the general laws of the state of Florida pertaining to state and municipal elections relating to the qualification of electors, registrations, transfer of electors from one district to another, manner of voting, duties of election officers, canvassing of returns, and all other particulars in respect to the management of elections, except as otherwise provided in this charter and the ordinances adopted hereunder pertaining to elections, shall so far as the same may be applicable, govern all city elections.

~~Section 11. (a) The duties of the mayor-commissioner shall be to see that all ordinances of the city are faithfully enforced. He shall be chairman of the board of commissioners and shall preside at all meetings and shall have the right to vote at said meetings. He shall have general supervision over all city officers except the board of commissioners, and may examine into the condition of their offices and the books, records and papers therein and the manner of conducting their official business. He shall report to the board of commissioners all violations or neglect of duty, or any misfeasance, malfeasance or non-feasance in office, or other improper conduct on the part of any city official that may come to his knowledge.~~

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OUT - REPEALED by House bill No 953
ATTACHED

(b) A vice-mayor shall be appointed by the commissioners at their first regular meeting after January 1, of each year and his duties shall be to preside over the meetings of the commissioners in the absence of the mayor-commissioner, and in general, during the absence or inability of the mayor-commissioner, to act, or during a vacancy in the office of mayor-commissioner, he shall do and perform those acts and things provided in this charter to be done by the mayor-commissioner.

(c) The city clerk shall be appointed by the board of commissioners of the city of Trenton, and he shall hold office at the pleasure of the board. He shall act as clerk of the board of commissioners and shall also act as clerk of the municipal court. He shall give such bond as the board of commissioners shall fix, and shall perform all the duties imposed upon the clerk by the board of commissioners not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter, and shall receive such salary and fees therefor as may be provided by ordinance of the city.

(d) A chief of police and such policemen as the city commission deems necessary, shall be appointed by the board of commissioners of the city of Trenton, and they shall hold office at the pleasure of the board. It shall be the duty of the chief of police, with advice and instruction of the board of commissioners, to preserve order, to prevent violation of the terms and provisions of the city ordinances, and to perform such other duties as may be prescribed by orders of the board of commissioners, not inconsistent with this charter. The chief of police or any policeman of the city of Trenton may arrest without warrant, any person violating any of the ordinances of said city, committed in the presence of such officer, and, when knowledge of the violation of any ordinance shall come to said chief of police, or said policemen, not committed in his or their presence, he shall at once make affidavit before the Municipal Judge or clerk against the person charged with such violation, whereupon the said Municipal Judge or the city clerk shall issue a warrant for the arrest of such person or persons. The salary or fee of the chief of police and all policemen shall be set by ordinance by the board of commissioners.

(e) There shall be appointed by the city commission a Municipal Judge who shall hold office at the pleasure of the city com-

mission and shall receive such compensation as may be determined by the board of commissioners. The mayor-commissioner or any commissioner may be appointed as such Municipal Judge.

The Municipal Judge shall have power to try all cases involving violations of the city charter and ordinances, and for such violations to impose such penalties or fines as may be prescribed by ordinance, and shall have power to try cases upon affidavit filed by the complaining witness. The Municipal Judge shall have the right to administer oaths, and shall have the power to issue warrants for arrest upon proper information or affidavits, and to issue summons to compel the attendance of witnesses, and in the event any witness so summoned shall fail to appear and attend the court, said judge may compel his attendance by attachment for contempt. All summons to witnesses shall be attested by the clerk of the municipal court, stamped with the seal of the city, and may be served by any police officer.

The Municipal Judge shall have the exclusive power to impose fines for the breach of any city ordinance, and shall have the exclusive power to grant pardons, releases, suspensions of judgments, or sentences, and to estreat and reinstate bonds, and to remit fines of persons convicted, and shall have the right to grant parole to persons confined in the city jail.

The judge of the municipal court shall have the power to punish any person for any contempt committed in the presence of the court, but in no case shall such punishment exceed the imposition of a fine of fifty (\$50.00) dollars or imprisonment in the city jail for a period not exceeding thirty days, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The Municipal Judge is hereby authorized and empowered to promulgate rules and regulations for the government of such municipal court, to fix the time at which said court shall convene, and to prescribe the sessions at which all persons within the jurisdiction of said court shall have their cases set for trial.

The costs of all prosecutions in said court shall be made up by the Municipal Judge and set forth as a rule or regulation of said municipal court, and approved by the city commission.

All monies collected by the Clerk of the municipal court shall be deposited with the proper finance officer designated by the city commission.

No papers or instruments once filed in the municipal court shall be taken therefrom by any attorney or other person, except by permission of the Municipal Judge, and upon giving a receipt to assure the return of such papers and instruments.

Trials in municipal court shall be without a jury. Appeals shall be to the Circuit Court in and for Gilchrist County, Florida, from all final judgments and sentences of the municipal court. Such appeals shall be taken only upon application of the party convicted, and under the restrictions imposed by the general law of the State of Florida in such cases made and provided.

(f) The board of commissioners shall also have the power to appoint an alternate judge who shall perform the duties of the municipal judge in case of his absence from the city or inability to act because of illness or disqualification, and he shall receive such compensation as may be fixed by the board of commissioners.

Section 12. The city commission shall appoint a fire chief and assistants, subject to the approval of the Volunteer Fire Department, so long as the fire department is manned by volunteers.

The city commission shall appoint a City Clerk, Tax Collector, Tax Assessor, City Attorney, Sanitary Officer and such other officers and employees necessary in its opinion to carry out the functions and duties of the city of Trenton imposed under this charter and the ordinances of the city, and also appoint such boards and commissions as may be deemed necessary and fix the duties and compensation to be paid such officers and employees. Nothing in this charter shall prevent one employee or officer from holding more than one office.

Section 13. That the board of commissioners may at their option divide the city into such wards as they may deem expedient to be designated numerically, which division into wards the board shall at any time have the power to alter, change or abolish as they may deem best; provided, that in the event of such a division into wards, one commissioner shall be elected from each ward, and the mayor-commissioner to be elected, shall be elected from the city at large. All commissioners shall be elected by vote of the electorate at large.

Section 14. The board of commissioners of the city of Trenton shall have the power to make ordinances and establish for the

government of the city, such ordinances in writing not inconsistent with the charter, Constitution and Laws of the State of Florida, or the United States, as they may deem necessary.

No ordinance shall be passed until it has been read in open commission meetings three times. At least one week shall elapse between the first and second readings. Notice of the proposed ordinance shall be given by publishing the title of the ordinance, in a newspaper of general circulation in Gilchrist County, Florida, in one issue thereof, or by posting at the city hall if no newspaper is published in said county, after its first and at least three days prior to the second reading of the proposed ordinance. At least one week shall elapse between the second and third readings, unless two-thirds of the commissioners present at the second reading shall deem it expedient to dispense with the second reading, after which they may proceed to final reading and passage. Emergency ordinances may, by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the commission present at a meeting, be passed by dispensing with the foregoing rule, and such emergency ordinances may be read three times and put on its final passage at one meeting. After an ordinance has been passed on third reading, it shall be submitted to the mayor-commissioner or in his absence or inability to act, to the vice-mayor, for his approval. If he shall approve, he shall sign the same and return it to the board of commissioners at or before its next regular meeting. If the mayor-commissioner shall disapprove, he shall return the ordinance with his objections in writing to the board of commissioners at or before its next regular meeting, at which meeting the board of commissioners shall enter into the consideration of the proposed ordinance and the objections thereto, if any are filed by the mayor-commissioner or the vice-mayor. If at said meeting the ordinance shall be approved by a majority of the commissioners, the ordinance shall become a law, the veto of the mayor-commissioner or vice-mayor, as the case may be, to the contrary notwithstanding. Any ordinance which shall not be returned to the board of commissioners with the written veto of the mayor-commissioner or the vice-mayor at or before the next regular meeting of the board of commissioners, shall become a law as though approved by the mayor-commissioner.

All ordinances shall become effective twenty days from the date of their approval by the mayor-commissioner or the vice-mayor, or on becoming a law without his approval, or twenty days after

the passage thereof over his veto by two-thirds of the board of commissioners.

The ordaining clause of every ordinance shall be as follows:
**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF TRENTON, FLORIDA:**

Section 15. The city of Trenton shall have the right to raise by taxes such amounts as may be necessary for carrying on the government of the city not to exceed twenty mills on the dollar, of the fair cash value of all the real and personal property located within the city of Trenton, and out of the funds so raised the commissioners shall have the right and authority to expend an amount not in excess of two mills on the dollar of all the taxable property in the city for the purpose of giving publicity to the advantages, facilities and resources of the city of Trenton. In addition to the right to levy a tax of twenty mills on the dollar as herein provided, the city shall have the right to levy such additional taxes as may be necessary to pay the interest on bonds as the city may from time to time issue in accordance with law, and also, to provide a sinking fund for the redemption of bonds when the same mature. It shall be the duty of the board of commissioners at their next meeting after being notified of the amount of the total valuation of all taxable real and personal property located within the city of Trenton, to ascertain the amount of money needed for each department, which estimate shall be submitted to the mayor-commissioner of the city, and he shall have the right to increase or diminish the appropriation for any department. The mayor-commissioner shall then return said estimate to the board of commissioners and they shall not have the right to change any item in said estimate of the mayor-commissioner except by a two-thirds vote of the board. The board shall then make a levy in accordance with such estimates, and no part of the money raised by taxation shall be diverted from the object for which it was raised. All funds shall be disbursed by check, approved by the board, signed by mayor-commissioner and attested by the clerk with seal of the city affixed thereto.

Section 16. (a) It shall be the duty of the Assessor of Taxes, immediately after the assessment of the property of the city has been corrected and the amounts to be raised for the various purposes hereinbefore mentioned has been determined, to calculate

and carry out the several amount of said taxes in separate columns provided for that purpose in the assessment roll, setting down opposite the several sums set down as the valuation of real and personal property, the respective sums assessed for taxes thereon in dollars and cents, rejecting all fractional parts of a cent. He shall also add up all columns of the assessment and taxes contained in the assessment roll and make thereon such recapitulatory tables as may be required by the board of commissioners, and he shall then attach to said assessment roll, the following affidavit, to-wit:

State of Florida
County of Gilchrist
City of Trenton

Personally appeared before me, Assessor of Taxes for the City of Trenton, Florida, who being first duly sworn, says the foregoing assessment roll contains a true statement and description of all real and personal property in the City of Trenton, subject to taxation or liable to be assessed therein, and that the valuation so far as were made by him were just and correct.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this day of A. D. 19..., and shall have the same completed by the First of August of each and every year, at which time the board of commissioners shall examine the assessment roll, and, if found to be correct, shall so certify thereon, which certificate shall be signed by the mayor-commissioner and each member of the board. The board then shall direct the collector of taxes to proceed, on the First day of October in each year, to collect said taxes, or as soon thereafter as the assessment roll shall be completed.

(b) The board shall direct the collector to collect said taxes by attaching to the assessment roll, the following warrants, to-wit:

"To, Collector of Taxes for the City of Trenton, Florida: You are hereby commanded to collect from each of the persons and corporations named in the appended roll, and of the owners of the real and personal property described therein, the taxes set down in said roll opposite their names and to the several parcels of land therein described, and in case any person or corporation upon which any tax is imposed shall refuse

or neglect to pay the same, you are to collect the same by law, by sale of the goods and chattels so assessed, and all sums so collected, you are to deposit in the City Depository at such time as may be required by ordinance. You are required to make all collections on or before the First day of April, next.

Given under our hand and seal of the City of Trenton, Florida
this day of A. D. 19.....

City Seal.

.....
Chairman of Board of Commissioners

Attest.....

City Clerk

(c) All taxes shall be due and payable on the First day of October of each year. All taxes paid in full for the current year during the month of October shall be subject to a discount of four percent; such payments made during the month of November shall be subject to a discount of three per cent; such payments paid during the month of December shall be subject to a discount of two per cent, and all taxes paid during the month of January after becoming due in October, shall be subject to a discount of one per cent; all taxes paid after the month of January after the taxes become due in October shall not be entitled to any discount. All taxes remaining unpaid on April First shall be delinquent and shall bear interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum until paid, and such interest shall be added to the taxes collected.

(d) Taxes and assessments on real and personal property within the city of Trenton shall be and remain a lien on the property assessed superior to all other liens or claims, except State and County taxes, and municipal improvement liens, but of equal dignity therewith, until the same shall be paid. Such liens may be enforced as other liens. All unpaid taxes and assessments may be collected by suits in courts at law or in equity.

The cost of all suits and proceedings for the collection of unpaid taxes and assessments, including a reasonable attorney's fee, shall be recovered and collected by such suits.

Section 17.

(a) If the taxes on all real property shall not be paid before April First next after the tax-roll shall have come into the hands

of the collector, he shall as soon thereafter as possible, make from the assessment roll a separate copy of any assessment thereon remaining unpaid, using a special tax certificate, the form of which shall be provided by resolution, showing the assessment of any lot, parcel or tract of land therein described and the amount of taxes due thereon, and that the lien thereby created is a first lien upon the property set forth therein superior to all other liens, except State and County taxes and municipal improvement liens, but of equal dignity therewith, and that such lien bears interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum for all subsequent years until paid. If any taxes on Personal Property shall not be paid by April 1, next after becoming due, the collector shall levy upon the same, or any part thereof sufficient to pay cost, interest, and taxes due.

(b) When the collector shall have completed the preparation of the tax certificates, he shall make a record of the same in a suitable book provided for that purpose which shall show the number and date of the tax certificate, the amount of the tax and a description of the property, and a space shall be provided to enter the name of the purchaser of the certificate in the event the board of commissioners should sell the same, as hereinafter provided, and such record or certified copies thereof, either in whole or in part, shall be entitled to record in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Gilchrist County, Florida.

(c) When the collector shall have completed the preparation of the tax certificates and the record thereon, he shall so report in writing, to the board of commissioners who shall, at any time thereafter, if they so desire, direct the collector to deliver the aforesaid tax certificates to the City Attorney for collection, which certified copies of tax certificates shall be prima facie evidence of the contents of the assessment roll and the levies made thereon in all suits to enforce the payment of the lien for such taxes as may appear upon said tax certificates.

(d) The City Attorney or solicitor shall search or cause to be searched the public records of Gilchrist County and of the United States District Court to ascertain the names of all persons owning or having any interest or lien in said land, and in the suits brought for the enforcement of said lien for taxes, he shall make all persons appearing upon said records to be owners or interested in said

property, or having a lien thereon, parties defendant, and whenever service is sought to be had in such suit upon any defendant by publication the notice shall contain a description of the land upon which the tax lien is claimed.

(e) The names of any persons other than the owners of said property may, at the discretion of the City Attorney, be omitted from the list of defendants, but no persons having an interest in said property or holding a lien thereon apparent from said records and not brought into court as a defendant, shall be deprived of his interest therein, until such person is made a party defendant. The interest of all persons not apparent upon said public records shall be foreclosed by such suits without being named or served as defendants.

(f) Upon the collection of all moneys due the city of Trenton after the same shall have been placed in the hands of the City Attorney, application shall be made first, to payment of court cost, including clerk's, sheriff's, master's and advertising fees; second, the amount due the city for taxes and interest, and last, the attorney's fee for services in connection with the collection of such taxes.

Section 18.

(a) As a supplemental alternative, or additional method of realizing revenue from delinquent tax assessments, the board of commissioners may sell, for cash at public sale, its tax liens as evidenced by the tax certificates hereinbefore provided for, and the purchaser of such tax certificates shall have all the rights and remedies in law and equity of the city respecting such liens, provided however, that any suit brought to foreclose the lien or to collect the indebtedness thereunder, in the event of such sale by the city, shall be brought in the name of the city for the benefit of the holder and owner of such tax lien as evidenced by such tax certificate.

(b) In the event of such sale the clerk or collector of said city shall record the name of the purchaser of such tax lien or certificate, in the record book provided for that purpose. In the event of sale by the city, the purchaser, or his successors, legal representatives or assigns, shall have the right to bring any suit at law or in equity for the enforcement of same at any time within twenty years from the date of such sale by the city, provided how-

ever, that no suit shall be brought until after the expiration of one year from the date of the sale of said certificates by the city. Each tax certificate, when so sold by the city, shall have thereon the assignment from the city to the purchaser bearing the date of such sale and shall be signed by the mayor-commissioner, attested by the city clerk and the corporate seal of the city shall be affixed thereto. Such certificate shall then become a negotiable evidence of indebtedness without recourse against the city, except in case assessment on which the certificate is based, is an invalid assessment; provided for such purposes, no such assessment shall be held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, unless and until the city of Trenton has been made a party defendant to the cause of action in which validity is attacked, and may be reassigned, sold and otherwise negotiated as any negotiable instrument, and in the event the purchaser or his legal representatives or assigns shall so desire he may accept partial payment of the same or collect the interest thereon without in any way affecting the validity of the lien for the balance due thereon.

(c) Such tax certificate or certificates from the city clerk or collector setting forth such sale and assignment, and the property subject to lien thereunder, shall be entitled to record in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Gilchrist County, Florida, and in such event the cost of such recording shall be an additional lien against the property embraced in such certificate. Such tax certificate shall be redeemable at all times at the office of the city clerk or collector upon the payment of the principal and interest accrued thereon, plus a cancellation charge of Fifty Cents payable to the attorney of the city of Trenton, for each cancellation, any time prior to the actual institution of legal proceedings for collection or foreclosure of same and upon such redemption, the city clerk or collector shall enter upon the proper record the payment of such tax certificate and shall issue a proper receipt or recordable release showing the payment thereof which shall be delivered to the person or persons paying the tax certificate.

(d) The city clerk or collector shall then notify the purchaser or owner of such tax certificate appearing on record in his office that the same has been paid and upon the surrender of the tax certificate so redeemed, the same shall be paid over to the person surrendering such tax certificate. Any tax certificate so redeemed shall immediately cease to bear interest regardless of by whom

owned or held. Upon the institution of any suit in law or equity, the party so instituting same as herein provided for, shall file written notice thereof with the city clerk or collector, who shall make the proper entry thereof on his records and shall show no redemption of the tax certificates involved in such suit through the office of the city clerk or collector.

Section 19.

That all tax levies and assessments, heretofore made by the city of Trenton are hereby declared to be legal and valid in all respects and any and all unpaid or delinquent assessments for taxes due the city of Trenton shall be subject to the provisions of this Act.

Section 20.

The city of Trenton may become the purchaser at any foreclosure sale brought in the name of the city for its use and benefit to enforce the collection or foreclosure of any tax lien or liens for any municipal improvements. No bid shall be lower than the current lien and the city shall provide public auction for said property and become the owner of said property if no bid is made in an amount greater than that of the lien and costs.

In the event the city becomes the purchaser and owner of any real estate under such proceedings, the board of commissioners may, at any time, sell the same at public sale for cash to any person or person whomsoever, provided the same shall not be sold for less than the amount paid therefor by the city, and then only upon consent of four-fifths of the board of commissioners.

Section 21.

All property exempt under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Florida from county taxation is hereby exempt from taxation by the city of Trenton.

Section 22.

The board of commissioners, sitting as the board of equalization at a public meeting, is empowered to provide for the correction of any defect in the assessment.

Section 23.

The board of commissioners shall have the power to order the laying of sidewalks along the public streets or on any promenade or public thoroughfare of the city; to prescribe the width thereof and the materials to be used. After thirty days' notice to the abut-

ting property owners and upon the failure of such property owners, within such time to lay any such sidewalk so ordered, the Board shall have the power to cause such sidewalks to be laid and shall assess two-thirds of the cost and expense of the same against such abutting property owner, which assessment shall constitute a lien against such property of equal dignity with tax certificates, and shall be payable, and the collection thereof enforceable, in not less than one year from the date of the assessment. The other one-third of the cost of laying of such sidewalk shall be paid by the city from the General Revenue Fund.

Section 24.

(a) The board of commissioners shall have the power to establish grades and drains on all public streets and thoroughfares of the city and shall have the power to pave, repave, curb, open, construct, lay out, repair or otherwise improve any street, alley, park or other public highway or any part thereof, and to lay out, construct, alter, repair or improve sewers or water mains owned by the city of Trenton.

(b) The board of commissioners shall have the power to assess not more than two-thirds of the cost of any of the improvements authorized in this section against the property especially benefited thereby, and the remaining cost shall be paid by the city from the general fund. The assessment shall be made substantially in the manner hereinafter provided for, to wit:

(c) The initial proceeding for a local improvement which is to be specially assessed against benefited property owners shall be the passage, at the regular or special meeting of the city commission of a resolution ordering such local improvement to be made under this section, stating the nature of the proposed improvement, designating the location of the improvement, what part or portion of the expense thereof is to be paid by special assessment, the manner in which said assessment shall be made, when said assessments are to be paid, what part, if any, shall be apportioned to be paid from the general fund of the city, and the resolution shall also designate the lands upon which the special assessment shall be levied.

(d) Immediately after the passage of said resolution, the city clerk shall prepare and file in his office plans and specifications of each improvement ordered thereby and estimates of the cost

thereof. There shall be included in the estimates of the cost of such improvements the cost thereof and all incidental expenses to be assessed against property benefited thereby. Such plans, specifications and estimates shall be open to the inspection of the public.

(e) The city clerk, upon filing such plans, specifications and estimates, shall publish a notice once in a newspaper published within the city or Gilchrist County, stating that at a meeting of the city commission, on a certain day and hour not earlier than ten days from the date of such publication, the city commission will hear the objections of all interested persons to the confirmation of said resolution. The notice shall state in brief and general terms a description of the proposed improvement with the location thereof and shall also state that plans, specifications and estimates of cost thereof are on file in the office of the city clerk for inspection.

(f) At the time named in said notice, or to which an adjournment may be taken, the city commission shall receive any objections of interested persons and may then or thereafter repeal or confirm said resolution with such amendments, if any, as may be determined by the city commission, but which do not change substantially the location or the improvement to be made.

(g) Upon the confirmation of said resolution ordering such improvements or any of them, the board of commissioners shall cause the city clerk to advertise for sealed bids for the doing of the work ordered, which said advertisement shall be published once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper published in the County of Gilchrist and the City of Trenton, immediately prior to the date designated for the receipt of such bids.

(h) Upon the receipt of the bids, the board of commissioners shall examine the same and shall then or later award the contract or contracts for the improvements to the lowest and best bidder, provided however, nothing herein contained shall prevent the board from rejecting any and all bids received and to readvertise in the manner provided for original call of bids.

(i) Upon the completion of any or all of the improvements so ordered as heretofore provided, the board of commissioners shall, at its next regular meeting, proceed to assess the cost of such im-

provement or improvements against the property specially benefited thereby, which assessment shall be accomplished by resolution duly passed and adopted by a majority of the board of commissioners and which shall set forth the nature of the improvements, the description of the property to be assessed, the names of the owners and the amounts to be assessed against the properties listed, it being specifically provided that in making the assessment, not more than two-thirds of the total cost thereof shall be assessed against property especially benefited thereby, and the remainder to be assumed and paid by the City of Trenton from the general fund.

(j) Immediately following the passage and adoption of the resolution making such assessment, the board of commissioners shall publish once in a newspaper published in Gilchrist County or the city, a notice stating that the city commission on a certain day and hour not earlier than five days after the date of such publication, will meet and hear the objections of all interested persons to the confirmation of said resolution. The notice shall state in brief and general terms the description of the improvements, the location thereof, the owners, the property to be assessed and the amounts to be assessed against each property so described.

(k) At the time named in said notice or to which an adjournment may be taken, the city commission shall receive any objection of interested persons and may then or thereafter repeal or confirm said resolution with such amendments, if any, as may be desired by the commission. Upon confirmation of the resolution by a majority of the commission, it shall be in full force and effect. The assessment shall constitute a lien against said property with equal dignity of other liens.

Section 25. The board of commissioners shall issue certificates of indebtedness for the amount so assessed against the abutting property and separate certificates shall be issued against each tract of land, with the description of the land, the amount of the assessment together with the general nature of the improvements for which the assessment is made and the date thereof. The certificates shall be made payable to bearer, in equal annual installments of not exceeding ten installments, to be determined by the board of commissioners, and shall bear interest at a rate not greater than eight per cent per annum, payable annually from the date of

issuance of such certificates. The payment of said certificates and annual interest may be guaranteed by the city of Trenton, and in case of the nonpayment of the annual interest or principal at maturity by the property owner, the same shall be redeemed by the city at the option of the holder of said certificate, but such redemption by the city shall not discharge the lien of the assessments against the abutting property. The certificates shall be in such form as is prescribed by the board of commissioners, and if the board shall so elect, the annual payments of interest and principal may be represented by coupons in the form prescribed by the board. The coupons shall be attached to such certificates and the city clerk or collector shall keep a record book listing therein all certificates and coupons hereafter issued for public improvements of the character herein provided for, and on which shall be noted all payments or cancellations of such certificates or coupons.

The certificates, when issued, shall be turned over to the city clerk for safe keeping, and when ordered to do so by resolution of the board, he shall sell or dispose of the same in such manner as may be provided for by such resolution; either in payment for the improvements or cash as the resolution may specify, provided however, that any owner of the property abutting any sidewalk or street, or any other improvement hereinbefore provided for, shall have the option to pay the entire amount of said assessment in cash upon notice of his intention so to do at any time before the actual sale or other disposal of the certificates by the board of commissioners. Whenever any such certificate or any coupons attached thereto, shall be presented to the city clerk or collector by a purchaser thereof with a request that the same be cancelled, the same shall be done by the proper stamp, provided by the board or the clerk of the city.

Section 26. After any assessments as herein provided for have been made and certificates of indebtedness issued but have not been sold or disposed of by the board of commissioners, it may order all or any part of the certificates so issued to be left on deposit with the city clerk and may issue coupon bonds bearing interest payable semi-annually at a rate of not more than five per cent in such form and denominations as may be prescribed by the board of commissioners to an amount not greater than the amount of the principal of the certificates so left on deposit, and may guarantee the payment of the principal and interest of said bonds. The

bonds may be made to mature at a time not longer than one year after the maturity of the last installment on such certificates, and said bonds shall be made payable at the office of the city clerk. All bonds issued shall be registered with the city clerk and when redeemed, shall become null and void and shall not be reissued.

Not less than thirty days before the interest paying period or the due date on any assessment bonds, the board of commissioners shall ascertain how much money has been accumulated in the trust fund by collection of certificates and shall, by drawing lots or in such other manner as they may determine, ascertain which bonds shall be retired with the fund so accumulated. Upon the said bonds being so ascertained, the registered holder thereof shall be notified that his bonds will be paid at the next paying period and notice shall have been considered given when a letter advising him of the facts has been deposited in the post office at Trenton, Florida, by the city clerk addressed to the post office address given by such registered holder at the time of the registry of his bonds. At the interest paying period of a sum of money sufficient to retire his bond or bonds and accumulated interest shall be set aside and deposited to his credit and the same shall be taken and held as a payment and cancellation of the bond or bonds, whether the same is surrendered or not. Bonds so issued shall not be taken into consideration in computing or determining the limit of bonded indebtedness to which the city is authorized to subject itself under this Act.

Section 27. In all cases mentioned in this Act where the city of Trenton has acquired or may hereafter acquire liens for improvements such liens or any of them may be enforced in the following manner by the city or in the name of the city by the holder thereof; first, by a bill in equity; second, by a suit at law.

The bill in equity or the declaration at law shall state briefly and sufficiently the facts constituting the lien, the amount thereof and the description of the property on which said lien has been acquired and shall contain a prayer that the owner shall be compelled to pay the amount of the lien, or in default thereof, that said property be sold to satisfy the same. But the judgment or decree obtained in such suit shall not be enforced against or be a lien against any other property than that against which the assessment was made; in the final decree or judgment an amount shall

also be included for a reasonable attorney's fee, together with the cost of the proceeding, which attorney's fee and costs shall also become a lien upon said land and shall be collected at the time and in the manner provided for the collection of the amount for which the lien was originally given.

Section 28. In the proceedings provided for in the preceding section the owner or owners of the land, if they can be ascertained, shall be parties defendant. If the owner or owners cannot be ascertained after diligent inquiry, the proceedings shall be against the property on which the lien is claimed without mentioning any party defendant. In such case service shall be had by a notice of the institution of said suit for the enforcement of such lien by one advertisement in a newspaper published in Gilchrist County, Florida and having a general circulation in the city of Trenton; before such service shall be had the plaintiff, his agent or attorney, shall make affidavit and file it with the suit, stating that the owner or owners of such property are unknown to him. In all proceedings to enforce said liens, save where the owner or owners cannot be ascertained, service shall be made on the parties defendant in the same manner as is provided by law for service in other cases. Appeals may be taken to the proper court as in other cases.

Section 29. Upon the affirmative vote of four-fifths of the board of commissioners, the city of Trenton is hereby authorized at any time to borrow money to the extent of one-half of the amount of the taxes levied in any one year and to issue as evidence of indebtedness for the money borrowed revenue bonds, which shall be signed by the mayor-commissioner and attested by the city clerk and under the seal of the city of Trenton. Such bonds shall not be of less denomination than one hundred (\$100.00) dollars each, and shall bear interest not to exceed five per cent per annum. Tax revenue bonds shall be issued separately against any and all of the funds for which taxes are assessed and when issued against any fund the amount realized from the loan shall be carried and credited to the fund against which said bonds were issued. The bonds shall be issued in serial numbers, beginning with number One as against each separate fund, and the holder of such bonds shall have a first lien upon the uncollected taxes to the extent of the amount borrowed and as against each fund for which bonds were issued, and as the taxes are collected, the bonds shall be paid in the order in which they were issued out

of the funds against which the bonds were negotiated. No revenue bonds shall be issued for a longer period than five years, and shall bear such interest as the board of commissioners may determine.

Section 30. The board of commissioners of the city of Trenton under this act is hereby empowered and authorized to take full control and responsibility for the operation of the water works system now owned and operated by the city of Trenton, Florida, and to supervise the operation, extension or improvement thereof as it may hereafter determine necessary by resolution or ordinance. The board shall have full control of all revenues derived from the operation of said water works system, the budgeting and the expenditure thereof for any public municipal purpose. Any portion or portions of Chapter 16739, Laws of Florida, Special Acts of 1933 to the contrary, is hereby expressly repealed.

Section 31. With the approval of four-fifths of its members duly assembled in a regular or special meeting, the board of commissioners under this Act is hereby authorized and empowered to provide by ordinance for the issuance of revenue bonds or revenue certificates not to exceed fifty thousand (\$50,000.00) dollars at any one time, for the purpose of raising funds necessary for all permanent municipal improvements. Any revenue bonds or revenue certificates issued under this provision shall not extend over a period greater than ten years, and shall not draw interest at a rate greater than five per cent per annum.

To secure the payment of any revenue bonds or revenue certificates issued under this Act, the city of Trenton may pledge the net revenue derived from the operation of the city water works system or any other utility system operated by the city, said revenue bonds or revenue certificates shall be payable solely from the revenue designated by the board of commissioners by the ordinance issuing such bonds or certificates, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent the board from using any other revenue of the city that may be available for the payment thereof. No Ad Valorem tax shall ever be levied for the payment of any bonds or certificates issued under this section, and such bonds or certificates shall not be held to be a lien upon any property within the city, or ever be held to be bonds within the meaning of the provisions of the Constitution or General Laws of the State of Florida, re-

quiring an election for approval by the freeholders for the issuance thereof.

Section 32. The city of Trenton under this Act, shall have and is hereby granted authority and power to pledge any and all utility taxes, or portions thereof, heretofore authorized by any General Laws of the State of Florida, or which may hereafter be authorized by Special or General Law, for the payment of any revenue bonds or revenue certificates hereafter issued by the city of Trenton, Florida, for the purpose of constructing, improving, extending or repairing streets and public buildings of the city of Trenton used for municipal and public purposes within the city of Trenton, and for the purpose of constructing, improving, extending and repairing any water system, sewer system or fire fighting system, or any facility owned by the city within or without the city limits.

The State of Florida does hereby covenant and agree that, in the event of the exercise by the city of the powers provided in this section, and the pledge of any utility taxes to revenue bonds or revenue certificates, as provided in this Act, it will not, as long as any such bonds or certificates, and the interest accrued and to accrue thereon, are outstanding and unpaid, or unless or until due provision has been made for the payment thereof, repeal, rescind, amend, alter or modify in any way the power granted to said city to levy and collect such utility taxes, and pledge the same as herein provided, or repeal, rescind, amend, alter or modify in any way the absolute and unconditional obligation of said city to levy and collect such utility taxes now authorized by any General Law or Special Laws of the State of Florida relating to the City of Trenton or which might hereafter be authorized, in the amount and manner, and upon the terms and conditions provided in this Act.

Section 33. The City of Trenton shall have the power to issue and sell bonds for municipal improvements of every nature and kind, and to carry out any of the authorized powers or purposes of the city, not to exceed in amount ten per cent of the assessed value of all property subject to taxation within the corporate limits of the city, provided however, that bonds for street, sewer, sidewalks and other public improvements which are paid from special assessments to the amount for which the city shall hold liens for

uncollected special assessments, shall not be subject to such limitation of amount, nor be considered when computing the amount of bonds that may be issued under this section; and provided further, that no bonds shall be issued or sold until the same shall have been approved by a majority of the freeholders who are qualified electors residing in the city of Trenton, properly registered for voting in such an election, shall actually participate, such election to be held in such manner as may be provided by the city commission, and no bonds shall be issued until such issue shall be advertised once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to such election, and no bonds shall be sold until such sale has been advertised not less than two weeks.

The bonds shall be negotiable coupon bonds in such denominations as prescribed by resolution, and shall bear interest not exceeding five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually, both principal and interest shall be payable in legal tender of the United States, at such place or places as the city commission may elect; and such bonds shall not be sold for less than ninety-five per cent of par.

All bonds shall be signed by the mayor-commissioner attested by the city clerk and sealed with the seal of the city. The interest coupons thereto attached shall be signed by the city clerk, whose signature may be in facsimile. Any of such bonds may by resolution of the city commission, be registered as to number under such terms and conditions and at such place or places, within or without the city of Trenton, as the city commission may determine.

(b) For the purpose of extending the time of payment of any bonded indebtedness which from its limit of taxation, the city may be unable to pay at maturity, or whenever it appears to the city commission to be for the best interest of the city to refund any such bonded indebtedness, the city commission is hereby authorized and given full power to compromise, compound, refund and settle any bonded indebtedness lawfully made and undertaken by the city by authority of law, without submitting the same for ratification by the qualified electors of the city, provided however, that no bonded indebtedness of the city shall be so compromised, refunded or extended unless such indebtedness shall be determined to be an existing valid and binding obligation of the city. The ordinance or resolution of the city commission author-

izing the issue of such negotiable coupon bonds shall state the amount of bonded indebtedness to be compromised, refunded or extended, the aggregate amount of bonds to be issued therefor, their number and denomination, the date of maturity and the rate of interest they shall bear, and the place of payment of principal and interest.

(c) The city commission is further authorized and empowered to levy a sufficient tax upon all real property within the corporate limits of the city each year to pay annual interest and to pay not less than five per centum annually on the principal of any general or refunding bonds, besides all expenses of assessing and collecting the same, which said amount of principal so raised by taxation, and the interest accruing thereon, when collected, shall be and remain a sinking fund to pay said bonds, and the same, together with interest thereon, shall be invested by the City Commission in negotiable interest bearing bonds of the United States Government or shall be deposited in the depository where said bonds are payable, which deposits shall be secured by negotiable interest bearing bonds of the United States Government for the full amount of such deposits, or shall be used to retire bonds of the same issue for which the said sinking fund is provided, and not other. When such levy shall have been made the same shall continue in force until the whole amount of principal and interest shall have been fully paid. Nothing herein shall authorize the taking up of any unmatured bonds issued or evidence of indebtedness created, and issuing new bonds in lieu thereof, unless such new bonds shall bear a less rate of interest than the bonds or evidence of indebtedness taken up or unless the maturity of said bonds shall be extended.

Section 34. (a) The owner or owners of any real property lying within the corporate limits of the city of Trenton, desiring to subdivide the same into lots and blocks and to lay out the same, or one or more streets, alleys or parks, shall be required to submit to the board of commissioners of the city of Trenton such proposed plat or plats for their approval.

If the proposed plat or plats in their original or amended form be approved by resolution of the board of commissioners, it shall be the duty of the mayor-commissioner to endorse upon the same, or a true copy thereof, the approval of the city of Trenton, and

the city clerk shall attest and place the seal of the city upon the same. No plats subdividing lands within the corporate limits of the city of Trenton shall be entitled to record in the office of the county clerk of Gilchrist County, Florida, without the aforesaid written approval endorsed thereon. In case there is a lien or encumbrance on the lands covered by said map or plat, the same shall not be accepted unless accompanied by a release from the person or persons holding the same as to the streets, alleys and parkways designated on said plat.

(b) No suit shall be filed against the city of Trenton unless and until a written notice, stating the nature and character of the claim, which may be the basis of such suit, has been served upon the mayor-commissioner of the city of Trenton, thirty days before the institution of any suit.

No suit shall be instituted or maintained against the city of Trenton, Florida, for damages arising out of any personal injury unless written notice of such claim or injury is within sixty days from the date of such alleged injury, giving to the mayor-commissioner of the city of Trenton, stating the type of injury, when and how it was incurred and the names and addresses of all persons witnesses thereto.

(c) All officers of the city of Trenton, before entering upon the duties of their offices, shall take and subscribe to an oath to faithfully perform the duties of their offices and to faithfully support the Constitution and Laws of the State of Florida and of the United States of America.

(d) The custody of the public records of the city of Trenton shall be in the keeping of the city clerk and he shall be responsible for their safety.

(e) The Board of Commissioners shall have exclusive power to make all public improvements and expenditures authorized by ordinance, but all work or services contracted for, calling for the expenditure of five hundred (\$500.00) dollars or more, shall be let to the lowest and best bidder. The commission shall have the power to reject any and all bids, and to re-advertise or to perform the work advertised for through the appropriate department of the city, provided the cost of the services or work performed shall not exceed the price named by the lowest and best bidder,

if bids have been received. If no bids have been received, the commissioners are authorized to perform the necessary work in making and completing said public improvements on the best terms possible, and at the lowest cost through the appropriate department of the city of Trenton.

Section 35. All laws or parts of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed. In the event any section, portion or provision of this act shall be held to be unconstitutional or inoperative, it shall in no way affect the remaining valid portions thereof.

Section 36. This Act shall become effective July 1, 1951.

Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 1951.

CHAPTER 27941—(No. 1462)

SENATE BILL NO. 1140

AN ACT Ratifying, Confirming, Validating and Legalizing All Assessments, Assessment Rolls, Valuations of Properties, Levies of Taxes and Delinquent Tax Certificates Heretofore Made by and as Entered Upon the Rolls and Records of the Town of Umatilla, Florida, for the Years 1949 and 1950, Together With All Acts and Proceedings Had, Done and Performed by the Duly Constituted Governing Authorities and Officials of Said Town in Connection Therewith Making Same Valid, Legal and Binding Liens Upon the Lands and Properties Upon Which Same Are Made, Assessed and Levied, and Authorizing the Collection of Said Taxes, Assessments and Delinquent Tax Certificates, Providing for the Effective Date of Such Law and for the Repeal of All Laws or Parts of Laws in Conflict Therewith.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. That all assessments, assessment rolls, valuations of property, levies of taxes and delinquent tax certificates, heretofore made by and as entered upon the rolls and records of the Town of Umatilla, a municipality in Lake County, Florida, for the years 1949 and 1950 inclusive, together with all acts and proceedings heretofore had, done and performed by the duly constituted govern-

ing authorities and officials of the said Town in connection with said assessments, assessment rolls valuations of properties, levies of taxes and delinquent tax certificates, for said years 1949 and 1950, be and they are hereby severally ratified, confirmed, validated and legalized in every respect whatsoever, and are hereby made and declared valid, legal and binding liens, both in law and equity, upon all the lands and other properties upon which the same are made, assessed and levied, and the same shall not be set aside or in anywise invalidated, nor shall the collection of taxes, delinquent tax certificates or assessment liens thereunder, or the foreclosure of the liens therefor, be defeated, except upon proof that the property was not subject to taxation or that the taxes have been paid; and that the said Town of Umatilla through its duly constituted authorities, be and it is hereby empowered and authorized to collect all taxes so assessed and levied, and all delinquent tax certificates heretofore issued or that may be issued based thereon, in the manner provided by law, or as may be provided by the Charter and Ordinances of said Town.

Section 2. That all laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith be and the same are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

Section 3. This Act shall become effective immediately upon its becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 11, 1951.

CHAPTER 27942—(No. 1463)

SENATE BILL NO. 1188

AN ACT to Amend Chapter 9101, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1921, as Amended, the Same Being the Corporate Charter of the City of Valparaiso, Florida, By Removing From the Limits of Said City Certain Territory, Particularly Described Herein.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1 of Chapter 9101, Laws of Florida, Acts of 1921, as amended, which chapter is the corporate charter of the City of Valparaiso, Florida, is hereby amended to remove and to