

shall act for them and shall keep a record of all their meetings. The city shall also supply the said commissioners with all necessary equipment to properly attend to such business.

(a) Before entering upon the duties of their office, each of said commissioners shall take or subscribe an oath which shall be filed and kept in the office of the city clerk, to support the Constitution of the United States and the State of Maryland and to obey the laws and to aim to secure and maintain an honest and efficient force, free from partisan distinction or control and to perform the duties of his office to the best of his ability.

(b) Such commission shall, on the first Monday in April, and October of each year, or oftener if they shall deem it necessary, under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe, hold examinations for the purpose of determining the qualifications of applications for positions, including applications for position of Chief of Police and Chief of Fire Department, which examinations shall be practical in their character and shall relate to such matters as will fairly test the fitness of the person examined to discharge the duties of the position to which he seeks to be appointed. Such commission shall, as soon as possible after every such examination, certify to the city council the names of ten persons for each department, who, according to its records, have the highest standing for the positions they seek to fill, as a result of such examinations and all vacancies in positions under Civil Service which shall occur before the holding of the next examination shall be filled from said list so certified; provided, however, if the list for any cause shall be reduced to less than three for any division or department, then the commissioner of said department may temporarily fill a vacancy until the next examination of the commission. The officers and employees of the Police and Fire Departments who shall be appointed by the Mayor and City Council in the Month of April, 1916, shall only hold office by virtue of such appointments until Civil Service lists can be made up by the Civil Service Commissioners as provided by this Act.

(c) All persons subject to such Civil Service examinations shall be subject to removal from office or employment by a majority vote of such Civil Service Commission for misconduct or failure to properly perform their duties under such rules and regulations as may be adopted by the Council. The Chief of Police and the Chief of the Fire Department may peremptorily suspend or discharge any subordinate then under