

offices, take an oath that they will support the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Maryland, and that they will diligently and faithfully discharge the duties of their offices without favor, partiality or prejudice.

(I) The Council may require any of its officers to give bond in such penalty and with such sureties as they may deem necessary, conditioned for the faithful performance of their duties. The Council shall require the City Clerk and Treasurer to be bonded in an amount equal to not less than forty per cent (40%) of the total estimated receipts of the City for the ensuing year. Said bond shall be filed with the Mayor. When any officer wilfully fails to discharge any duty of his office, he may, in addition to the remedy on his bond, be fined by the Mayor, at his discretion, not exceeding Ten Dollars (\$10.00) for any one offense, and for the payment of such fine his bond shall be responsible. Any officer may be dismissed by the Council at its discretion.

(J) The Mayor, with the advice and consent of the Council, shall in the month of September in each year employ a certified public accountant to make an audit of the books, accounts, statements and records relating to the financial affairs of the City for the preceding fiscal year, including particularly those of the Clerk and Treasurer of said City. Said accountant shall have no connection with or relation to the City government or any of its officers or employees: Upon completion of said audit, the said accountant shall prepare a report thereon and submit the same, together with his recommendations, if any, to the Mayor and Council. Thereafter, said report and recommendations shall be public records open to public inspection during business hours at the office of the City Clerk. The said accountant shall receive such compensation for his services, not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each audit, as the Council may fix.

(K) Neither the Mayor nor any member of the Council shall be financially interested in any contract, agreement, sale or lease, in which the said town is or may become a party and in which the said Mayor or member of the Council may individually profit financially to his benefit. Any violation of this sub-section is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100.00 and forfeiture of office.

(L) The Council may establish and maintain a general system of pensions and retirement benefits for the officers and employees of the City, by whatever authority appointed,