

preceding section is recorded among the Land Records of Prince George's County, which petition shall be signed by such person, and endorsed by at least fifteen (15) persons entitled to vote in the next town election. Upon the filing of such petition, the Mayor and Common Council shall print such persons' names upon the ballot with a square opposite each, the names appearing in alphabetical order. Preceding the list of names upon the ballot there shall appear a statement instructing the voter how many persons to vote for. Immediately upon the closing of the polls the ballots shall be publicly counted and the said judges shall within two (2) days thereafter make a true and correct return of the votes so cast in a sealed envelope to the Mayor and within seven days after such election the Mayor and Common Council shall meet and canvass said returns and declare those qualified persons receiving the highest number of votes duly elected. In case two (2) or more persons shall have received the same number of votes so that there is no choice for office a new election shall be immediately proclaimed by the Mayor and Common Council from among such tie candidates, which election shall be held on five (5) days' notice and in all respects as aforesaid except as to the day of election.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That the Mayor and councilmen elected shall hold office for two years from the second Monday in May or until their successors shall be elected or appointed, and qualified as herein provided. Provided, however, that at the election to be held in May, 1939, the Mayor and three candidates for Councilmen who receive the highest number of votes, shall be elected for two years, and the three candidates for councilmen who receive the next highest number of votes shall be elected for one year. In case any person elected Mayor or Councilman shall fail to qualify within thirty (30) days after his or her election, or in case of any vacancy, by death, resignation, removal from said town or otherwise, the Mayor and remaining Councilmen shall appoint a qualified person to fill said vacancy, who shall qualify as hereinbefore stated, to hold office for such term or unexpired term. All vacancies in the office of Mayor or of Councilmen caused by absence from its session for more than three (3) consecutive meetings without excuse satisfactory to the majority of the remaining Councilmen or Councilmen and Mayor as the case may be shall be filled in the same manner as provided in this Section for filling vacancies due to other causes. The Mayor and Councilmen shall serve without pay, and they shall pass rules and by-laws for their own proceedings while in session.