

books and papers pertinent to the investigation and to administer oaths to such witnesses.

51. No person in the classified service, or seeking admission thereto, shall be appointed, reduced or removed or in any way favored or discriminated against because of his political opinions or affiliations.

No person in classified service of the City shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or receive, or be in any manner concerned in soliciting or receiving, any assessment, subscription or contribution, for any political party or political purpose whatever.

52. Any violation of any of the provisions of this subtitle relating to the Civil Service of Hagerstown, or any wilful use of any corrupt means in connection with any examination, appointment, promotion, transfer or reinstatement shall be deemed a misdemeanor and upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction, shall be punished by a fine of not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed twelve months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

53. The Council may provide a retirement system for persons in the classified service of the City. Such retirement system, if established by the Council, shall operate on an actuarial basis, and shall be sustained by a percentage basis, and shall be sustained by a percentage reduction from the salaries of municipal classified employees and by direct contribution by the City; and the contribution of the City in all cases shall not be less than that of the employee. The general retirement system, if established by the Council, shall supersede the special retirement systems for policemen and firemen; provided, however, that retirement benefits to those employed as policemen and firemen at the time the general retirement system is established shall not be less than those accruing under their respective special retirement systems then in force.

The Council shall have the power and authority to appropriate and cause to be raised by taxation such sums of money as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and to pay all contributions to a retirement system if, and when established.

54. The Mayor is hereby empowered and authorized, whenever in his discretion, the efficiency of the Police Department of Hagerstown may require it, to retire any regular Policeman, Chief, Captain or Lieutenant and to direct