

number of votes in the general election shall be declared elected as mayor. The five candidates for councilman with the highest number of votes in the general election shall be declared elected as councilmen.

38. Preservation of ballots.

All ballots used in any town election shall be preserved for at least six months from the date of the election.

39. Vacancies.

In case of a vacancy on the council for any reason, the council shall elect some qualified person to fill [such] *the* vacancy for the unexpired term. In case of a vacancy in the office of mayor for any reason, the council shall elect some qualified person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the unexpired term. Any vacancies on the council or in the office of mayor shall be filled by the favorable votes of a majority of the remaining members of the council. The results of any such vote shall be recorded in the minutes of the council.

40. Women.

Women shall have equal privileges with men in registering, voting, and holding town offices. Whenever the masculine gender has been used as to any registering, voting, or holding town office, it shall be construed to include the feminine gender.

41. Regulation and control.

The council [shall have] *has* the power to provide by ordinance in every respect not covered by the provisions of this charter for the conduct of registration, nomination, and town elections and for the prevention of fraud in connection therewith, and for a recount of ballots in case of doubt or fraud.

42. Penalties.

Any person who [(a)] (1) fails to perform any duty required of him under the provisions of this [subtitle] *subheading* or any ordinances passed thereunder, [(b)] (2) in any manner wilfully or corruptly violates any of the provisions of this [subtitle] *subheading* or any ordinances passed thereunder, or [(c)] (3) wilfully or corruptly does anything which will or will tend to affect fraudulently any registration, nomination or town election, [shall be deemed] *is* guilty of a misdemeanor. Any officer or employee of the town government who is convicted of a misdemeanor under the provisions of this section shall immediately upon conviction thereof cease to hold such office or employment.

Finance

43. Clerk-Treasurer.

There shall be a clerk-treasurer appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council. He shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor. His compensation shall be determined by the council. The clerk-treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the town. The financial powers of the town, except as otherwise provided by this charter, shall be exercised by the clerk-treasurer under the direct supervision of the mayor.