

**60. PREVIOUS ISSUES**

All bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness validly issued by the town previous to the effective date of this charter and all ordinances passed concerning them are hereby declared to be valid, legal, and binding and of full force and effect as if herein fully set forth.

**61. PURCHASING AND CONTRACTS**

All purchases and contracts for the town government shall be made by the clerk-treasurer. The council may provide by ordinance for rules and regulations regarding use of competitive bidding and contracts for all town purchases and contracts. All expenditures for supplies, materials, equipment, construction of public improvements, or contractual service involving more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be made on written contract. The clerk-treasurer shall be required to advertise for sealed bids, in such manner as may be prescribed by ordinance, for all such written contracts. Such written contracts shall be awarded to the bidder who offers the lowest or best bid, quality of goods and work, time of delivery or completion, and responsibility of bidders being considered. All such written contracts shall be approved by the council before becoming effective. The clerk-treasurer shall have the right to reject all bids and readvertise. The town at any time in its discretion may employ its own forces for the construction or reconstruction of public improvements without advertising for (or readvertising for) or receiving bids. All written contracts may be protected by such bonds, penalties, and conditions as the town may require.

**PERSONNEL****62. CLERK TO COUNCIL**

The clerk-treasurer shall serve as clerk to the council. He shall attend every meeting of the council and keep a full and accurate account of the proceedings of the council. He shall keep such other records and perform such other duties as may be required by this charter or the council.

**63. TOWN ATTORNEY**

The mayor with the approval of the council may appoint a town attorney. The town attorney shall be a member of the bar of the Maryland Court of Appeals. The town attorney shall be the legal adviser of the town and shall perform such duties in this connection as may be required by the council or the mayor. His compensation shall be determined by the council. The town shall have the power to employ such legal consultants as it deems necessary from time to time.

**64. AUTHORITY TO EMPLOY PERSONNEL**

The town shall have the power to employ such officers and employees as it deems necessary to execute the powers and duties provided by this charter or other State law and to operate the town government.

**65. MERIT SYSTEM AUTHORIZED**

The town may provide by ordinance for appointments and promotions in the administrative service on the basis of merit and fitness. To carry out this purpose the council shall have the power to adopt such rules and regulations governing the operation of a merit system as it deems desirable