

vice of the experts who have testified before the commission, the preferential system was not applied to the election of councilmen. Primary elections must continue to exist for an indefinite time owing to the election of officers other than city officials. It was therefore deemed wise by the commission, in order that the final ballot might be kept within reasonable length, to provide for a non-partisan elimination primary, as prescribed in Section 202. This primary entails no extra expense upon the city. Should conditions change in the future the charter can be readily amended.

6. **The Initiative and Referendum.** (Section 36.) The charter provisions are similar to those of the state law with some added improvements and safeguards.

7. **The Recall.** (Section 215.) The recall is drawn along modern and improved lines so as to give citizens the power of removing unfaithful or corrupt officials from office; at the same time the recall is so safeguarded as to confine its use to cases of real necessity.

8. **Lengthened Terms of Office.** The term of office of all elective officers is raised from two to four years. This change is approved by the large majority of experts and students of city affairs as tending to promote that efficiency in the service which comes only with added experience. The institution of a recall removes any element of danger which might otherwise exist in the lengthening of the tenure of office.

9. **The Civil Service.** (Section 146.) This department is maintained and provided with additional safeguards to prevent arbitrary removals of the civil service commissioners.

10. **Division of Public Welfare.** (Section 112.) In response to the ever growing demand that along with the material side of city administration, the moral and social side should receive more serious attention, this new department is established. It is given charge of the agencies belonging to the city, having reference to charitable, correctional, reformatory and recreational work. It is also charged with the duty of instituting scientific inquiry as to the causes of poverty, delinquency, crime and other similar problems in the community.

11. **A Public Defender** (Section 12.) Council is given authority to appoint this important officer, whose duty it will be to see that only justice is meted out to individuals, charged with offenses in the municipal court, whose means are too limited to secure aid in preparing a proper defense.

12. **The Board of Purchase.** (Section 142.) This board is established to effect economy in the purchase of supplies by concentrating such purchase in one central agency and providing for publicity in the letting of contracts.

13. **Street Improvements.** The charter lays down a course of procedure under which all disputed points relative to improvements and assessments are adjusted before work is actually commenced. Provision is also made for a more equitable distribution of the cost of improvements as between the city and the benefited property holder.

14. **Franchises.** The granting of franchises is so safeguarded as to protect in full the rights and just interests of the city. In all future grants (Section 194) periodic reports will be required from grantees in order to provide for the accumulation of the data so necessary when the fixing of a just rate is undertaken.

15. **Mayor's Veto.** (Section 25.) Under the veto as provided in this charter, the mayor cannot block council in the exercise of its legislative functions, as no greater vote is required for passage over the veto than was required for original passage. The mayor is therefore empowered by his veto to call public attention to anything in a legislative act that is of doubtful value and force a reconsideration. Council is nevertheless free to follow its own judgment and must assume full responsibility for every ordinance or resolution that it passes.

16. **Fixed Responsibility.** Responsibility for legislative or executive acts is so definitely fixed by this charter that the citizens need never be at a loss as to where to lay praise or blame. This makes the recall a real and effective instrument.

**Conclusion.** The members of the charter commission submit this document for your consideration with the request that you not only give it your most earnest and sincere attention, but that you pass judgment on it in its entirety, and not allow a disapproval of some particular part to cause a rejection of the whole. The preparation of the charter meant long and arduous labor on the part of your commissioners for which they will receive no compensation whatever, other than the satisfaction of having given the city a much improved and modern system of government. It should ever be borne in mind that the adoption of this charter places your city under the home rule provisions of the constitution, and affords ample opportunity at any regular or special election, for amending this charter in any direction that public sentiment may demand and without added expense. A rejection of this charter leaves the city as heretofore, subject to partisan domination and under the control of the general assembly. Defeat means a postponement for an indefinite number of years of local self-government.

Respectfully submitted by

THE CHARTER COMMISSION.