

City of Celina

Home Rule Charter



Mission Statement:

Celina Home Rule Charter Commission

Celina Home Rule Charter Commission exists for the purpose of proposing a Charter for voter consideration. The Charter shall provide a framework that provides quality, effective and efficient local government, representative of the diversity of its citizens and fostering an environment of respect for the rights of all people.

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CHAPTER ONE
INCORPORATION AND BOUNDARIES

SECTION 1.01 INCORPORATION

All inhabitants of the City of Celina, Texas, as the boundaries and limits of said City have heretofore been established and now exist or may hereafter be established shall constitute a municipal body politic incorporated under and known by the name “City of Celina” with such powers, rights, duties, privileges, and immunities as are herein provided.

SECTION 1.02 BOUNDARIES AND LIMITS

The boundaries and limits of the City of Celina shall be those as established and described in ordinances duly passed by the City Council of the City of Celina in accordance with State law. The City Secretary shall keep a correct and complete description and official map on file, with recent annexations and disannexations.

SECTION 1.03 ANNEXATIONS AND DISANNEXATIONS

The City may from time to time alter its boundaries by annexing any territory adjoining its present or future boundaries in any size or shape desired in any manner provided by State law, with or without consent of the owners of such territory or the inhabitants thereof. The City may from time to time alter its boundaries by disannexing any territory adjoining its present or future boundaries by passage of an ordinance describing the territory being disannexed. Any additional territory annexed to the City shall be a part of the City for all purposes, and the property situated therein shall bear its pro rata part of the taxes levied by the City as provided by State law. The inhabitants thereof shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of all citizens and shall be bound by the acts, ordinances, and resolutions of the City.

provide suitable penalties for the violation of any ordinance enacted by the City.

- (5) To borrow money on the faith and credit of the City by the issue or sale of bonds, warrants, certificates of obligation, notes or other securities authorized by the laws of the state of Texas.
- (6) To acquire, by purchase, gift or devise, or by the exercise of the right of condemnation, and own, in fee simple or otherwise, either public or private property located inside or outside of the corporate limits of the City for the extension, improvement and enlargement of its waterworks system, including riparian rights, water supply reservoirs, stand pipes, watersheds, dams, and the laying, building, maintenance and construction of water mains, rights-of-way in connection therewith, and the laying, erection, establishment or maintenance of any necessary appurtenances or facilities which will furnish to the inhabitants of the City an abundant supply of wholesome water; for sewerage plants and systems; rights-of-way for water and sewer lines; parks, playgrounds, fire stations, police stations, incinerators or other garbage disposal plants; streets, boulevards, and alleys or other public ways; municipal buildings, garages and parking facilities, or any rights-of-way needed in connection with any property used for any purpose hereinabove named; for the straightening or improving of the channel of any stream, branch or drain or for any other municipal or public purpose though not specifically enumerated in this Charter.
- (7) To institute and prosecute suits without giving security therefor, and appeal from judgments of the courts without giving supersedeas or cost bonds, other bonds or security whatsoever.
- (8) To have the exclusive right to erect, own, maintain and operate a waterworks and sanitary system for the use of said City and its inhabitants and to regulate the same, including the right to prescribe rates for water and sanitary sewer services, and to make such rules and regulations as the council may deem expedient, including the power to extend water and sanitary sewer lines and assess a portion or all of the cost therefore and affix a lien against the property and the owner thereof, and do anything whatsoever necessary to operate and maintain said waterworks and to compel the owners of all property and the agents of such owners to pay all charges for water and sanitary sewer services furnished.
- (9) To acquire property within or without its boundaries or within boundaries of other municipalities for any public purpose, in fee simple or lesser interest or estate, by purchase, gift, devise, lease, or condemnation when necessary or desirable to carry out any of the powers conferred upon it by this Charter or by the Constitution and the laws of the state of Texas.

CHAPTER THREE

CITY COUNCIL

SECTION 3.01 MAYOR

The person elected Mayor shall be the presiding officer of all meetings of the City Council. He/She shall be the official head of the City government for all ceremonial purposes and by the governor for purposes of military law and shall not be able to vote on matters coming before the Council, except in case of a tie. The Mayor shall have a one-time veto power over ordinances adopted by the City Council, which can be overridden by a majority vote of the City Council, excluding the Mayor, at the next regular or special meeting. The Mayor shall present an annual state of the City message, and perform other duties as specified by the City Council, imposed by this Charter or by applicable State law. The Mayor may sign, upon authorization of the City Council, all resolutions, ordinances, contracts or conveyances on behalf of the City, and all bonds, warrants, and any other obligations issued under the provisions of this Charter.

SECTION 3.02 QUALIFICATIONS

In addition to any other qualifications prescribed by the Texas Election Code or any other applicable law, the Mayor and each Council Member shall meet the conditions of this Charter while in office, and shall reside within the corporate limits of the City while in office. Any member of the City council ceasing to possess any of the qualifications specified in this Section or convicted of a felony while in office, shall immediately forfeit such position. Each candidate for election to the City Council or office of Mayor shall be a qualified voter of the City, shall be not less than twenty-one (21) years of age immediately preceding election day, shall have resided in the City not less than twelve (12) months immediately preceding election day and shall meet the requirements of the Texas Election Code.

No candidate may file in a single election for more than one (1) office or position as provided by this Charter. No employee of the City shall remain an employee of the City after filing for a place on the City Council or the office of Mayor. Such filing shall constitute a voluntary resignation.

The position of an elected Mayor or Council Member shall become vacant when the person holding such office is elected to another elective public office, or otherwise provided by the Texas Constitution.

SECTION 3.06 MAYOR PRO TEM AND DEPUTY MAYOR PRO TEM

- A. The City Council shall elect one of its members as Mayor Pro Tem, who shall perform the duties of Mayor in the case of the absence or inability of the Mayor to perform the duties of his/her office, and who shall, during that time, be vested with all the powers and responsibilities belonging to the Mayor.
- B. The City Council shall elect one of its members as Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, who shall perform the duties of Mayor in the case of the absence or inability of the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem to perform the duties of his/her office, and who, shall during that time, be vested with all the powers and responsibilities belonging to the Mayor.

SECTION 3.07 ABSTENTION

Should any Council Member choose to abstain from voting on any question or matter before the City Council, where no conflict of interest exists, the Council Member's abstention shall be recorded as a negative vote in the official minutes of the meeting.

SECTION 4.03 CITY MANAGER - SPECIFIC POWERS AND DUTIES

The City Manager shall be responsible to the City Council for the proper administration of the affairs of the City and shall have the power and duty to:

- (1) Exercise control over all departments and subdivisions thereof created by this Charter or by ordinance.
- (2) Prepare and recommend items for inclusion in the official agenda of all City Council meetings and meetings of the Boards and Commissions as established by this Charter or by ordinance.
- (3) Prepare and submit to the City Council the annual budget and capital program, and administer the budget as adopted by the City Council.
- (4) Be responsible for the proper administration of all City affairs placed in his/her hands.
- (5) See that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of the City or inhabitants in any public utility franchise are faithfully kept and performed.
- (6) See that all laws and ordinances are enforced.
- (7) Keep the City Council at all time fully advised as to the financial condition and needs of the City, and prepare and submit to the City Council an annual report on the finances and administrative activities of the City, including the report of the annual audit required by State law.
- (8) Appoint, suspend, and/or remove employees not otherwise provided for in this Charter. Appointments made by him/her shall be on the basis of experience and ability.
- (9) Attend all City Council meetings and take part in the discussion of City business.
- (10) Recommend to the City Council for adoption such measures as he/she may deem necessary or expedient; to execute deeds, deeds of trust, easements, releases, contracts, and all other legal instruments on behalf of the City when authorized by ordinance or resolution of the City Council, and approved as to form by the City Attorney.
- (11) Perform such other duties as are specified in this Charter or as may be required by the City Council by ordinance or resolution, not inconsistent with this Charter.

CHAPTER SIX

MUNICIPAL COURT

SECTION 6.01 CREATION

The City Council shall, by ordinance, create and provide for a Municipal Court to be known as the Municipal Court of the City of Celina, Texas, and may appoint one or more Municipal Judges to serve in such Court. The Court shall have all the powers and duties as are now or as may hereafter be prescribed by the laws of the state of Texas in connection with the adjudication of misdemeanor offenses within its jurisdiction.

SECTION 6.02 MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE

The Judge of the Municipal Court, and all alternates, shall be competent, duly qualified, and licensed attorneys in the state of Texas. The Judge of the Municipal Court shall be appointed by the City Council to a term of three (3) years and may be appointed to additional and consecutive terms. The Judge shall serve at the will and pleasure of the City Council and receive such compensation as may be determined by the City Council. This compensation shall be fixed, and be commensurate with the duties performed by the Judge.

SECTION 6.03 CLERK OF THE COURT

There shall be a Clerk of the Municipal Court appointed by the City Manager. The Clerk of the Court and any Deputies appointed by the City Manager shall have the power to administer oaths and affidavits, make certificates, affix the seal of said Court as necessary and as required by law, and in general, do and perform any and all acts usual and necessary to be performed by clerks and deputy clerks of municipal courts of the state of Texas.

SECTION 6.04 JURISDICTION, POWER, AND FINES

The Municipal Court shall have jurisdiction:

- (1) Over the forfeiture and collection of bonds given in proceedings therein, and to order the forfeiture of cash acceptance bonds upon the failure of the defendant to appear, and to accept the same in lieu of a fine;

CHAPTER SEVEN

CITY ATTORNEY

SECTION 7.01 APPOINTMENT

The City Council shall appoint a competent licensed attorney of recognized ability and he/she shall be known as the City Attorney. The City Attorney shall serve at the will and pleasure of the City Council.

SECTION 7.02 COMPENSATION

The City Attorney shall receive for his/her services such compensation as may be fixed by the City Council at the time of his/her appointment, and from time to time as authorized by the City Council.

SECTION 7.03 DUTIES OF CITY ATTORNEY

The City Attorney shall be the legal adviser of, and attorney for, all of the offices and departments of the City and shall represent the City in all litigation and legal proceedings, provided, however, that the Council may retain special counsel at any time it deems appropriate and necessary. He/She shall review and approve as to form all documents, contracts, resolutions, ordinances, and legal instruments in which the City may have an interest. The City Attorney shall perform other duties prescribed by the Charter, by ordinance or resolution of the City Council.

- B. The City Council shall have the power, and is hereby authorized to levy, assess, and collect annual taxes not to exceed the maximum limit set by the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas, as they now exist or as they may be amended, on each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) assessed valuation of all property having a location within the corporate limits of the City and not exempt from taxation by the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas.
- C. All taxes due the City shall be payable at the office of the Assessor and Collector and may be paid at any time after the tax rolls for the year have been completed and approved, which completion and approval shall be not later than October 1. Taxes shall be paid before February 1 of each year succeeding the year for which the taxes are levied, and all such taxes not paid prior to such date shall be deemed delinquent and shall be subject to such penalty and interest as may be provided by law. Failure to levy and assess taxes through omission in preparation of the approved tax rolls shall not relieve the person, firm, or corporation so omitted from the obligation to pay such current or past due taxes shown to be payable by recheck of the rolls and receipts for the years in question, unless otherwise provided by law.
- D. All property having its location in the City on the first day of January of each year shall stand charged with a lien in favor of the City from said date for the taxes due thereon. The lien provided hereby shall be superior to all other liens except other tax liens, regardless of when such other liens were created. All persons purchasing any of said property on or after the first day of January in any year shall take the same subject to the lien herein provided. In addition to the lien herein provided on the first day of January of any year, the owner of property subject to taxation by the City shall be personally liable for the taxes due thereon for such year. The City shall have the power to sue for and recover personal judgment for taxes without foreclosure, or to foreclose its lien or liens, or to recover both personal judgment and foreclosure. In such suit where it appears that the description of any property in the City assessment rolls is insufficient to identify such property, the City shall have the right to plead a good description of the property to be assessed, to prove the same, and to have its judgment foreclosing the tax lien and/or for personal judgment against the owner for such taxes as such ownership and property appears on the approved tax rolls furnished by the Central Appraisal District of the County where the property is located.

SECTION 8.07 FAILURE TO ADOPT ANNUAL BUDGET

If the Council fails to adopt the budget by the twentieth day of September, the amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year on a month to month basis with all items in it prorated, until such time as the Council adopts a budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The property tax levy will be set to equal the total current fiscal year tax receipts, unless the ensuing fiscal year budget is approved by the twentieth day of September of the current fiscal year.

SECTION 8.08 BONDS AND OTHER EVIDENCES OF INDEBTEDNESS

The City shall have the right and power to borrow money on the credit of the City for public purposes by whatsoever method it may deem to be in the public interest. The City shall further have the power to borrow money on the credit of the City and to issue general obligation bonds and other evidences of indebtedness for permanent public improvements or for any other public purpose not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas and to issue refunding bonds to refund outstanding bonds and other evidences of indebtedness of the City previously issued. All such bonds shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the state of Texas. The City shall further have the power to borrow money for the purpose of constructing, acquiring, improving, extending, or repairing or public utilities, recreational facilities or any other self-liquidating municipal functions not prohibited by the Constitution and laws of the state of Texas, and to issue revenue bonds to evidence the obligations created thereby. Such bonds shall be a charge upon and payable from the properties, or interest therein pledged, or the income therefrom, or both. The holders of the revenue bonds of the City shall never have the right to demand payment thereof out of monies raised or to be raised by taxation. All such bonds shall be issued in conformity with the laws of the state of Texas. The City shall have the power to borrow money for public improvements or any public purpose in any other manner provided by law, including certificates of obligation as authorized by Chapter 271 of the Texas Local Government Code. All bonds and evidences of indebtedness of the City having been approved by the Attorney General and registered by the Comptroller of Public Accounts shall thereafter be incontestable in any court or other forum for any reason, and shall be valid and binding obligations of the City in accordance with their terms for all purposes.

staggered terms. Such appointees shall serve without compensation. A vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the City Council for the unexpired term. The Board shall select from its members a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. The Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be voting members of the Board.

SECTION 9.04 OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The City Council shall have the power and is hereby authorized to create, abolish, establish, and appoint such other boards, commissions and committees, as it deems necessary to carry out the functions of the City and to prescribe the purpose, functions, and tenure of each board, commission, or committee in accordance with all applicable laws.

SECTION 10.04 ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS NOW IN EFFECT

All ordinances, portions thereof, resolutions, contracts, bonds, obligations, rules and regulations now in force under the City government of the City of Celina, and not in conflict with the provisions of this Charter, shall remain in force under this Charter until altered, amended, or repealed by the City Council in the manner required by law.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

ELECTIONS

SECTION 11.01 CITY ELECTIONS

The Mayor and Council Members shall be elected at large. If a candidate for Mayor or Council Member fails to receive a majority of the votes cast at the regular election, the City Council shall order a run-off election to be held between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes, to be held on a date as prescribed by the Texas Election Code. All qualified voters of the State who reside within the City of Celina shall have the right to vote in City elections.

SECTION 11.02 SPECIAL ELECTIONS

The City Council, by ordinance or resolution, may call such special elections as are authorized by the State law or this Charter, fix the time and place of holding the same, and provide all means for holding such special elections, provided that every special election shall be called and held as nearly as practicable, according to the provisions governing regular elections.

SECTION 11.03 REGULATION OF ELECTIONS

All City elections shall be governed by the Constitution of the state of Texas, general laws of the state of Texas, this Charter, and by ordinance of the City regulating the holding of municipal elections. The City Council shall appoint the election judges and other election officials as prescribed by law and shall provide for the compensation of all election officials in City elections and for all other expenses in holding said elections.

SECTION 11.04 CANDIDATES: FILING FOR OFFICE

Any qualified person as prescribed by Section 3.02 may make application to have his/her name placed on the official ballot for the position of Council Member or Mayor. The application shall be made in accordance with all applicable laws. Each candidate shall execute such oath and other official form of affidavit as may be required by the City

- B. In the event a candidate for the office of Mayor or Council Member in Places 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 fails to receive a majority of all votes cast for that office, a run-off election for that office shall be conducted. If more than two (2) candidates tie for the highest number of votes for either the office of the Mayor or Council Members, the tied candidates shall draw by lots to determine which two (2) are to be in a run-off election. The City Secretary shall supervise the drawing of lots under this section.

- C. Not later than the fifth (5) day after the date of final canvass the City Council shall order a runoff election to be held on a date as prescribed the Texas Election Code.

SECTION 12.04 RIGHT OF REGULATION

In granting, amending, renewing and extending public service and utility franchises, the City shall retain the right to:

- (1) Repeal such franchise by ordinance for failure to comply with the terms thereof, or for failure to begin construction or operation within the time prescribed, such power to be exercised only after due notice and hearing;
- (2) Require an adequate extension of plant and service as is necessary to provide adequate service to the public, and maintenance of the plant and fixtures at the highest reasonable standard of efficiency;
- (3) Establish reasonable standards of service and quality of products and prevent unjust discrimination in service or rates;
- (4) Impose regulations to ensure safe, efficient and continuous service to the public. The franchise holder in opening and refilling all earth openings shall re-lay the pavement and do all other work necessary to complete restoration of streets, sidewalks, or grounds to a condition equally as good as or better than when disturbed; and
- (5) Regulate, locate, or prohibit the erection of any and all poles, wires, or other utility equipment, conveyance, or structure, on the streets, alleys, and public places of the City, and to cause the same to be changed, removed, altered, increased, diminished, placed underground, or be supported by poles of such material, kind, quality and class as may be determined by the City Council whether the same be telegraph, telephone, electric, cable television, or otherwise, and to enforce the provisions hereof by appropriate action in any court of competent jurisdiction.

SECTION 12.05 COMPENSATION FOR FRANCHISE

All persons, corporations, or association of persons, to whom a franchise or privilege may hereafter be granted shall pay to the City for such privilege such compensation as may be fixed by the City Council in the grant of such franchise or privilege. Such compensation as fixed by contract or provided by any Texas statute or statutes and any amendments thereto shall become due and payable at such time as the City Council shall fix in the grant of such franchise or privilege, and upon the failure of any franchisee to pay said compensation when due shall result in forfeiture of the franchise or privilege.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

INITIATIVE, REFERENDUM AND RECALL

SECTION 13.01 POWER OF INITIATIVE

The people of the City reserve the power to direct legislation by initiative and, in the exercise of such power, may propose any ordinance not in conflict with this Charter or State law, except an ordinance appropriating money or authorizing the issuance of bonds, or authorizing the levy of taxes, and user based fees, an ordinance amending an ordinance appropriating money or levying taxes, an ordinance authorizing the issuance of bonds, and user based fees, or an ordinance repealing an ordinance appropriating money or levying taxes and user based fees. Any initiated ordinance may be submitted by a petition signed by registered voters of the City equal in number to at least twenty (20) percent of the number of registered voters residing in the City at the time the petition is filed.

SECTION 13.02 POWER OF REFERENDUM

The people of the City reserve the power to approve or reject at the polls any legislation enacted by the City Council, which is subject to the initiative process under this Charter. However, there is excepted from such power of referendum ordinances making the annual tax levy and bond ordinances authorizing the issuance of bonds. Within forty-five (45) days after the final adoption or publication, whichever date is later, of any ordinance which is subject to referendum, a petition, signed by registered voters of the City equal in number to at least twenty (20) percent of the number of registered voters residing in the City at the time the petition is filed, may be filed with the City Secretary requesting that any such ordinance be either repealed or submitted to a vote of the people. When such a petition has been certified as sufficient by the City Secretary, the ordinance so specified in the petition shall not go into effect, or further action shall be suspended if it shall have gone into effect, until and unless it is approved by the voters as herein provided.

SECTION 13.03 FORM OF PETITION FOR INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Special elections on initiated or referred ordinances shall not be held more frequently than once each six (6) months, and no ordinance on the same subject as an initiated ordinance which has been defeated at any election may be initiated by the voters within two (2) years from the date of such election.

SECTION 13.06 BALLOT FORM AND RESULTS OF ELECTION

Ordinances submitted to the electors in accordance with the initiative and referendum provisions of this Charter shall be submitted by ballot title, which shall contain a clear, concise statement, without argument, of the substance of such ordinance. The ballot used shall have below the ballot title the following proposition, one above the other in the order indicated: "FOR THE ORDINANCE" and "AGAINST THE ORDINANCE." Any number of ordinances may be voted on at the same election and may be submitted on the same ballot.

If a majority of electors voting on a proposed initiated ordinance shall vote in favor thereof, it shall thereupon become an ordinance of the City. A referred ordinance which is not approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon shall thereupon be deemed repealed. If conflicting ordinances are approved by the electors at the same election, the one receiving the greatest number of affirmative votes shall prevail to the extent of such conflict.

SECTION 13.07 POWER OF RECALL

The people of the City reserve the power to recall the Mayor or any other Member of the City Council and may exercise such power by filing with the City Secretary a petition, signed by qualified voters of the City equal in number to at least twenty (20) percent of the number of registered voters residing in the City at the time the petition is filed demanding the removal of the Mayor or other Member of the City Council. The petition shall be signed and verified in the manner required for an initiative petition, shall contain a general statement of the grounds upon which the removal is sought and one of the signers of each petition paper shall make an affidavit that the statements made therein are true.

SECTION 13.08 RECALL ELECTION

All papers comprising a recall petition shall be assembled and filed with the City Secretary. Within thirty (30) days after the petition is filed, the City Secretary shall determine its sufficiency and, if found to be sufficient, shall certify this fact to the City Council at its next regular meeting. If a recall petition is found to be insufficient, it may

SECTION 13.11 LIMITATIONS ON RECALL

No recall petition shall be filed against the Mayor or any other Council Member within six (6) months after he/she first takes office, or within six (6) months after an election for his/her recall, nor within six (6) months of the end of his/her term.

SECTION 14.03 NEPOTISM

No member of the City Council, Mayor, or City Manager shall appoint, vote for, or confirm the appointment to any paid office, position, clerkship, employment or duty, any person, related within the second degree of affinity or within the third degree of consanguinity to any member of the City Council, Mayor, or City Manager, when the salary, fees, or compensation of such appointee is to be paid for, directly or indirectly, out of or from public funds or fees of office of any kind or character whatsoever. This provision shall not prevent the appointment, voting for, or confirmation of any person who shall have been continuously employed in any such office, position, clerkship, employment, or duty for at least thirty (30) days if the officer is appointed, or at least six (6) months if the officer is elected. When a person is allowed to continue in any such position, the officer related shall not participate in the deliberation or voting upon the appointment, reappointment, employment, confirmation, re-employment, change in status, compensation, or dismissal of such person, unless such action is taken with respect to a bona fide class or category of employees.

SECTION 14.04 OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

The City Council shall have the power to designate by resolution a newspaper of general circulation in the City as the City's official newspaper. All ordinances, captions of ordinances, notices and other matters required to be published by this Charter, by ordinance, or by State law, shall be published in the official newspaper.

SECTION 14.05 JUDICIAL NOTICE

This Charter shall be recorded in the City Secretary's office in a book kept for that purpose. As soon as practicable after its adoption, an authenticated copy of the Charter shall be certified to the Secretary of State of the state of Texas, at which time the Charter becomes a public act. Such Charter provisions may be read in evidence without pleading or proof of their provision, and judicial notice shall be taken thereof in all courts and places.

SECTION 14.06 PROPERTY NOT SUBJECT TO GARNISHMENT AND EXECUTION

No property owned or held by the City shall be subject to any garnishment or execution of any kind or nature except as specifically provided by State law.

SECTION 14.10 AMENDMENT OF THIS CHARTER

Amendments of this Charter may be submitted by the City Council to the qualified voters of the City for their approval at an election, no more often than once every two (2) years, held in accordance with Chapter 9, Texas Local Government Code.

SECTION 14.11 BOND OR SECURITY NOT REQUIRED

It shall not be necessary in any action, suit, or proceeding in which the City is a party, for any bond, undertaking, or security to be executed on behalf of said City. All such actions, suits, appeals, or proceedings shall be conducted in the same manner as if such bond, undertaking, or security had been given, and said City shall be liable as if such obligation had been duly given and executed.

SECTION 14.12 SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any chapter, section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Charter shall be held unconstitutional or invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Charter nor the context in which such provision so held invalid may appear, except to the extent that an entire chapter, section, paragraph, or sentence may be inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the provision to which such holding shall apply directly.

SECTION 14.13 MEANING OF WORDS

The provision of this Charter shall be liberally construed for the purpose of effecting the objects and ends thereof. Unless some other meaning is manifest, the word "City" shall be construed to mean the "City of Celina," and the word "and" may be read "or" or the word "or" may be read "and" if the sense requires. Words in the present tense include future tense and, except when a more constrictive meaning is manifest, singular may mean plural. The word "Council" shall be construed to mean the City Council of the City of Celina. The gender of the wording as contained in the Charter shall always be interpreted to mean either sex.

