

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

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*An Act to amend and reenact § 1.2, as amended, § 1.3, §§ 2.1 and 2.2, as severally amended, § 2.3, § 2.4, as amended, §§ 2.5 and 3.1, §§ 3.2 through 3.5, as severally amended, § 3.6, §§ 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3, as severally amended, § 5.1, and § 5.2, as amended, of Chapter 520 of the Acts of Assembly of 1983, which provided a charter for the Town of Lovettsville in Loudoun County, relating to Town Council; town officers and powers.*

[H 1028]

Approved

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**  
**1. That § 1.2, as amended, § 1.3, §§ 2.1 and 2.2 as severally amended, § 2.3, § 2.4, as amended, §§ 2.5 and 3.1, §§ 3.2 through 3.5, as severally amended, § 3.6, §§ 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3, as severally amended, § 5.1, and § 5.2, as amended, of Chapter 520 of the Acts of Assembly of 1983 are amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 1.2 - ~~Corporate limits~~ *Limits.*  
 The corporate limits or boundaries of the Town are those established in Deed Book 6M at Page 406, et seq., of the land records of Loudoun County, Virginia, as extended by the annexation decree of the Circuit Court of Loudoun County, Virginia, entered on March 27, 1973, of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for Loudoun County in Common Law Order Book 33 at Page 21, Deed Book 572 beginning at Page 545, by Final Order entered June 12, 1995, of record in the Clerk's Office in Common Law Order Book 102 at Page 0263 in At Law No. 16467 and in Deed Book 1371 at page 1964, et seq., and by Final Order entered December 22, 2006, in CL 43628, recorded among the land records of Loudoun County as Instrument Nos. 20070104-0000612 and 20070315-0019694, and the plat as 20070315-0019695, and by any orders of the Circuit Court of Loudoun County heretofore or hereafter entered.

§ 1.3 - ~~Corporate seal~~ *Seal.*  
 The Town of Lovettsville may provide for the adoption of its corporate seal, which it may alter, amend or renew at its pleasure.

§ 2.1 - ~~In general~~ *General.*  
 The Town of Lovettsville shall have and may exercise all the powers and privileges conferred upon it by this charter, as well as all the powers and privileges conferred upon towns by the Constitution of Virginia and all other laws of the Commonwealth. All powers set forth in Chapter 9 (§ 15.2-900 et seq.) of Title 15.2 of the Code of Virginia, as now existing or as may be added to or amended from time to time, are hereby specifically conferred upon the Town of Lovettsville.

§ 2.2 - ~~Eminent domain~~ *Domain.*  
~~Generally.~~ The Powers powers of eminent domain, which may be exercised by municipal corporations under the provisions of Title 15.2 (§ 15.2-100 et seq.) and Title 25.1 (§ 25.1-100 et seq.) of the Code of Virginia, are hereby conferred upon the Town.

§ 2.3 - ~~Acquisition of land~~ *Land* or ~~interest therein~~ *Interest Therein* for ~~exchange~~ *Exchange* with ~~public utility company~~ *Public Utility Company.*

Whenever any public utility company owns any land or any easement, right-of-way or other interest in land which the Town deems necessary and intends to acquire for any public purpose, which land, easement, right-of-way or other interest in land owned by such public utility company is devoted to a public use, the Town may acquire by gift, purchase or by the exercise of its power of eminent domain additional or a like easement, right-of-way or interest in land adjacent to or approximately adjacent to such land needed and proposed to be acquired by the Town. The Town may then convey the same to the public utility company for use by such company in lieu of the land, easement, right-of-way or other interest in land theretofore owned by it but needed by the Town. The condemnation of such land, easement, right-of-way or other interest in land to be conveyed to any public utility company shall be governed by the procedures prescribed in this charter.

§ 2.4 - ~~Water and sewer services~~ *Sewer Services.*  
 A. Generally. The Town shall have the power and authority to acquire, establish, maintain, operate, extend and enlarge waterworks and sewage disposal plants within or without the corporate limits of the Town; and to establish and enforce reasonable rates, rules and regulations for the use of same, any or all of which rates, rules and regulations the Council may alter from time to time.  
 B. Rates. In operating public water and sewer services, the Town may charge a different rate for services furnished to customers outside the corporate limits of the Town from the rates charged for

57 similar services to customers within the corporate limits.

58 C. Unpaid ~~charges~~ *Charges*. The Town may provide by ordinance that all unpaid water and sewer  
59 service charges and interest thereon shall constitute a lien on the real estate served by the water or sewer  
60 line through which the service is provided.

61 § 2.5 - Power to ~~incur debts~~ *Incur Debts* and ~~contract loans~~ *Contract Loans*.

62 A. The Council, within the limits of the Constitution of this Commonwealth and in accordance with  
63 the provisions of general law, may, in the name of and for the use of the Town, contract loans or cause  
64 to be issued certificates of debt, notes or bonds.

65 B. The Council shall have the power to negotiate temporary loans, in anticipation of taxes, for the  
66 purpose of paying current expenses of the Town, such loans to be evidenced by bonds or notes bearing  
67 interest at a rate permitted by general law for towns, and such bonds or notes shall be payable within  
68 one (1) year from the date of issue out of the current revenue of the year in which the same are issued.  
69 No such temporary loan shall in the aggregate exceed seventy-five percent (75%) of the Town's income  
70 of the previous year.

71 C. All bonds and other evidences of indebtedness of the Town shall be signed by the Mayor and  
72 countersigned by the Town Clerk.

73 § 3.1 - Conduct of ~~municipal elections~~ *Municipal Elections*.

74 All elections shall be conducted pursuant to and in accordance with the general laws governing the  
75 holding of elections in towns.

76 § 3.2 - Council.

77 A. The legislative powers of the Town shall be vested in a ~~town council~~ *Town Council*, composed of  
78 six (6) members, who shall be elected as specified herein.

79 B. Council members shall be elected to four-year terms, on the date specified by general law for  
80 municipal elections, in the manner herein provided:

81 1. Three ~~council~~ (3) *Council* members shall be elected in the municipal elections held in 1984, and  
82 in municipal elections held every four (4) years thereafter.

83 2. Three ~~council~~ (3) *Council* members shall be elected in the municipal elections held in 1986, and  
84 in municipal elections held every four (4) years thereafter.

85 C. The ~~council~~ *Council* members so elected shall qualify and take office on ~~July 1~~ *the date specified*  
86 *by general law for municipal elections*, following their election, and shall continue to serve until their  
87 successors are duly elected, qualify and assume office.

88 ~~C. D.~~ Any person qualified to vote in Town elections shall be eligible for the office of ~~councilman~~  
89 *Council member*.

90 ~~D. E.~~ Vacancies in the ~~council~~ *Council*, ~~for whatever cause arising~~, shall be filled ~~for the unexpired~~  
91 ~~term by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Council from among the qualified voters of~~  
92 ~~the Town. For purposes of this section, no distinction shall be made between a member elected to the~~  
93 ~~council and a member who has been appointed to the council except as to voting on those matters set~~  
94 ~~forth in Article VII, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia. Upon any matter except those set forth in~~  
95 ~~Article VII, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia coming before the council, the votes of all~~  
96 ~~members shall be of the same dignity, whether a member has been elected or appointed in accordance~~  
97 ~~with general law. Council members appointed to fill vacancies on the Council shall have the rights,~~  
98 ~~privileges, powers, duties and obligations of an elected member of the Council as provided in this~~  
99 ~~charter, or otherwise conferred by general law not inconsistent with this charter.~~

100 ~~E. F.~~ The ~~Council~~ members of the ~~Council~~ in office at the time of the passage of this Act shall  
101 continue until the expiration of the terms for which they were elected *or appointed*, or until their  
102 successors are duly elected, qualify and assume office.

103 § 3.3 - Mayor.

104 A. Powers and ~~duties~~ *Duties*.

105 1. The ~~mayor~~ *Mayor* shall be the ~~chief executive officer~~ *Chief Executive Officer* of the Town and  
106 shall be recognized as the head of Town government for all ceremonial purposes, the purpose of military  
107 law and the service of civil process;

108 ~~he~~ 2. ~~The Mayor~~ shall have and exercise all power and authority conferred by general law on the  
109 mayors of towns not inconsistent with this charter;

110 ~~he~~ 3. ~~The Mayor~~ shall authenticate by ~~his~~ signature such documents as the ~~council~~ *Council*, this  
111 charter or the laws of the Commonwealth shall require;

112 ~~and he~~ 4. ~~The Mayor~~ shall perform such other duties consistent with ~~his office~~ *the Office of Mayor*  
113 as may be imposed by the ~~council~~ *Council*;

114 ~~2. 5.~~ The ~~mayor~~ *Mayor* shall preside at all meetings of the ~~council~~ *Council* but shall have no vote  
115 except in case of tie;

116 ~~he~~ 6. ~~The Mayor~~ shall have the power to veto resolutions, acts and ordinances of the ~~council~~  
117 *Council*, which resolutions, acts and ordinances may be passed over such veto by a two-thirds *majority*

118 vote of the ~~entire~~ council;  
119 ~~and he shall~~ 7. ~~The Mayor may~~ from time to time recommend to the ~~council~~ Council such measures  
120 as ~~he may deem~~ ~~the Mayor deems~~ necessary for the welfare of the Town-;

121 3- 8. Except as otherwise provided herein or by law, the ~~mayor~~ Mayor shall have the authority to  
122 appoint such officers and committees as are necessary for the proper administration of the affairs of the  
123 Town; but shall report each appointment to the ~~council~~ Council for confirmation at the next meeting  
124 thereof following any such appointment; ~~the mayor and~~

125 9. ~~The Mayor shall~~ see that the duties of the various Town officers are faithfully performed, and he  
126 shall have the power to suspend any such officer for misconduct in office or neglect of duty until the  
127 next regular or special meeting of the ~~council~~ Council, when the decision of the ~~council~~ Council shall be  
128 final. ~~In the absence of an officer, the roles and responsibilities of said officer shall be executed by the~~  
129 ~~Town Manager or a staff member.~~

130 B. Election. In each even-numbered year, on the date specified by general law for municipal  
131 elections, a ~~mayor~~ Mayor for the Town shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. The person so  
132 elected shall so qualify and take office on ~~July 1~~ ~~the date specified by general law for municipal~~  
133 ~~elections,~~ following election. ~~Mayors~~ The Mayor shall continue to serve until ~~their successors are a~~  
134 ~~successor is~~ duly elected, ~~qualify~~ ~~qualifies~~ and ~~assume~~ ~~assumes~~ office.

135 C. Qualifications. Any person qualified to vote in Town elections shall be eligible for the ~~office~~  
136 ~~Office of mayor~~ Mayor.

137 D. Vacancies. A vacancy in the ~~office~~ Office of ~~mayor~~ Mayor, for whatever cause arising, shall be  
138 filled for the ~~unexpired term~~ by a majority vote of the members elected to the council from among the  
139 qualified voters of the Town. A member of the council shall not be qualified to fill a vacancy in the  
140 office of mayor. For the purposes of this section, no distinction shall be made between a person elected  
141 as mayor and a person who has been appointed as mayor except as to voting on those matters set forth  
142 in Article VII, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia. Upon any matter except those set forth in  
143 Article VII, Section 7 of the Constitution of Virginia coming before the council, the votes of all  
144 members shall be of the same dignity, whether a member has been elected or appointed in accordance  
145 with general law. The person appointed to fill a vacancy in the Office of Mayor shall have the rights,  
146 privileges, powers, duties and obligations as provided in this charter, or otherwise conferred by general  
147 law on the mayors of towns not inconsistent with this charter.

148 E. The ~~mayor~~ Mayor in office at the time of the passage of this Act shall continue in office until the  
149 expiration of the term for which ~~he~~ the Mayor was elected, or until ~~his~~ a successor is duly elected,  
150 qualifies and assumes office.

151 § 3.4 - Vice-Mayor.

152 A. The ~~council~~ Council shall elect from among its members a ~~vice-mayor~~ Vice-Mayor, who shall  
153 preside at ~~council~~ Council meetings in the absence of the ~~mayor~~ Mayor. Election of the ~~vice-mayor~~  
154 ~~Vice-Mayor~~ shall be made at the organizational meeting of the ~~council~~ Council following the regular  
155 election of ~~mayor~~ the Mayor and ~~council~~ Council members.

156 B. In the event of the disability or absence of the ~~mayor~~ Mayor, ~~his place~~ the Office of Mayor may  
157 be filled and ~~his duties~~ the Mayor's powers and duties discharged by the ~~vice-mayor~~ Vice-Mayor.

158 § 3.5 - Meeting.

159 A. All meetings of the council shall be public, unless a closed session is called according to *general*  
160 law. No official action shall be taken by the ~~council~~ Council while in closed session.

161 B. The ~~council~~ Council, by ordinance, shall adopt such rules as it may deem proper for the  
162 regulation of its proceedings and the time of its meetings. It shall hold at least such regular meetings as  
163 may be required by § 15.2-1416 of the Code of Virginia. Special meetings may be called at any time by  
164 the ~~mayor~~ Mayor or by three (3) Council members of the ~~council~~, provided all Council members of the  
165 ~~council~~ are actually notified of such meeting.

166 C. A majority of the ~~council~~ Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Each  
167 Council member of the ~~council~~ shall have one (1) vote.

168 § 3.6 - Compensation.

169 Compensation for Council members of the ~~council~~ and the ~~mayor~~ Mayor shall be set by the ~~council~~  
170 Council. Any increases in the compensation of the ~~mayor~~ Mayor or Council members of the ~~council~~  
171 may become effective during such ~~mayor's~~ Mayor's or ~~council~~ Council member's term of office.

172 § 4.1 - Town officers Officers.

173 A. Town Clerk. A ~~The Mayor shall appoint and the Council shall confirm the appointment of a~~  
174 Town Clerk ~~shall be appointed~~ who shall be the Clerk of the ~~council~~ Council and shall keep the journal  
175 of its proceedings and shall record all ordinances and resolutions in a book or books kept for that  
176 purpose. All such records shall be public records, stored and filed at the Town's offices and open to  
177 inspection at any time during the Town's regular office hours. The Town Clerk shall serve at the  
178 pleasure of the ~~town~~ ~~council~~ Council.

179 B. Town Treasurer. ~~A~~ *The Mayor shall appoint and the Council shall confirm the appointment of a*  
 180 *Town Treasurer shall be appointed*, who shall receive all money belonging to the Town and keep correct  
 181 accounts of all receipts from all sources and of all expenditures; ~~he~~. *The Town Treasurer shall be*  
 182 *responsible for the collection of all license fees, taxes, levies and charges due to the Town and shall*  
 183 *disburse the funds of the Town as the council Council may direct. The Town Treasurer shall serve at*  
 184 *the pleasure of the town council Council.*

185 C. Town Manager. ~~A~~ *The Mayor shall appoint and the Council shall confirm the appointment of a*  
 186 *Town Manager, in the discretion of the mayor and council, may be appointed* who shall serve as the  
 187 ~~chief administrative officer~~ *Chief Administrative Officer* of the Town. The Town Manager shall serve at  
 188 the pleasure of the ~~council~~ *Council*.

189 D. Other town officers *Town Officers*. The ~~mayor, in his discretion and with the approval of the~~  
 190 ~~council, may~~ *Mayor shall appoint and the Council shall confirm the appointment of a town attorney*  
 191 *Town Attorney, a town zoning administrator Town Zoning Administrator, and such other town officers as*  
 192 *may be deemed appropriate. Such officers shall serve at the pleasure of the council Council, unless the*  
 193 *council Council shall provide otherwise.*

194 E. *Non-Officers. For staff not considered officers, the Town Manager shall hire and the Mayor and*  
 195 *the Council may confirm the non-officers' employment. Requests for such confirmation may be initiated*  
 196 *by the Mayor or any three (3) Council members and shall only be invoked prior to the non-officer's*  
 197 *initial offer of employment.*

198 F. *Duties, etc Etc*. Each officer shall have such duties as are specified by the ~~council~~ *Council* not  
 199 inconsistent with the Constitution and general laws of the Commonwealth and this charter, shall execute  
 200 such bonds as may be prescribed by resolution of the ~~council~~ *Council*, and shall receive such  
 201 compensation as the ~~council~~ *Council* may prescribe.

202 ~~F. G.~~ The same person may be appointed to more than one (1) office; provided, however, that no  
 203 person may serve both as an officer of the Town and as ~~mayor~~ *Mayor* or ~~Council member of the~~  
 204 ~~council~~ except as otherwise provided in this charter or by general law.

205 § 4.2 - Boards, ~~commissions~~ *Commissions* and ~~committees~~ *Committees*.

206 A. Planning ~~commission~~ *Commission*. The ~~council~~ *Council* shall appoint a Town ~~planning~~  
 207 ~~commission which~~ *Planning Commission* that shall have such powers and duties as are provided by  
 208 general law.

209 B. Board of Zoning Appeals. The ~~council~~ *Council* shall appoint the members of the Board of Zoning  
 210 Appeals for the Town, which shall consist of three (3) or five (5) members, and prescribe their terms of  
 211 office and qualifications. The Board of Zoning Appeals shall have such powers and duties as are  
 212 provided by general law.

213 C. Committees. The ~~council~~ *Council*, in its discretion, may establish such committees, whether  
 214 standing or ad hoc, as it may deem appropriate, to study and report to the ~~council~~ *Council* on those  
 215 matters referred to such committees by the ~~council~~ *Council*. The report of any such committee shall not  
 216 be binding upon the ~~council~~, *Council* but shall be advisory only.

217 D. Membership. Except as otherwise provided by law, *Council* members of the ~~council~~ and the  
 218 ~~mayor~~ *Mayor* are eligible to serve as members of any Town commission, committee or group. ~~Members~~  
 219 ~~of the council and the mayor so serving and~~ shall be entitled to participate fully as voting members of  
 220 such commission, committee or group ~~except as otherwise provided by law~~.

221 E. Compensation. The ~~council~~ *Council* may provide for compensation to such of their boards,  
 222 commissions or committees performing special work to the extent that may be reasonable and fair.

223 § 4.3 - Fiscal ~~control~~ *Control*.

224 A. Fiscal ~~year~~ *Year*. The fiscal year of the Town shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30.

225 B. Fiscal ~~control~~ *Control*. The ~~council~~ *Council* shall have the power to control and manage the fiscal  
 226 affairs of the Town and to make such ordinances, orders and resolutions relating to the same as it may  
 227 deem necessary. After the close of each fiscal year, the ~~council~~ *Council* shall cause to be made an  
 228 independent audit of the accounts, books, records and financial transactions of the Town either by the  
 229 Auditor of Public Accounts of the Commonwealth or by an independent certified public accountant to  
 230 be selected by the ~~council~~ *Council*. The report of such audit shall be filed within such time as the  
 231 ~~council~~ *Council* shall specify, and one (1) copy thereof shall always be available for public inspection in  
 232 the Town's offices during the Town's regular business hours.

233 § 5.1 - Continuity.

234 A. All ordinances now in force in the Town of ~~Lovettsville~~, not inconsistent with this charter, shall  
 235 remain in force until altered, amended or repealed by the ~~council~~ *Council*.

236 B. The present officers of the Town shall continue in office at the pleasure of the ~~council~~ *Council*, or  
 237 until their successors have been duly appointed.

238 § 5.2 - Historic ~~districts~~ *Districts*.

239 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the ~~council~~ *Council* may establish one (1) or more

240 historic districts within the Town for the purpose of promoting the general welfare, education and  
241 recreational pleasure of the public through the perpetuation of those general areas, individual structures  
242 or premises ~~which~~ *that* have been officially designated by the ~~council~~ *Council* as having historical or  
243 architectural significance. The establishment of historic districts shall be by amendment of the Town's  
244 zoning ordinance and consistent with the purposes, criteria and procedures set forth in § 15.2-2306 of  
245 the Code of Virginia.

**ENROLLED**

HB1028ER