

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2364, June 20, 1959]

AN ACT CREATING THE CITY OF COTABATO

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Charter of the City of Cotabato.

ARTICLE I.—GENERAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 2. *Territory of the City of Cotabato.*—The City of Cotabato, which is hereby created, shall comprise the present territorial jurisdiction of the Municipality of Cotabato in the Province of Cotabato.

SEC. 3. *Corporate character, the seal and general powers of the city.*—The City of Cotabato shall constitute a political body corporate, endowed with the attribute of perpetual succession and possessed of the powers, which pertain to a municipal corporation, to be exercised in conformity with the provisions of this Charter.

The city shall have a common seal, and may alter the same at pleasure. It may take, purchase, receive, hold, lease, convey and dispose of real and personal property for the general interest of the city, condemn private property for public use, contract and be contracted with, sue and be sued, prosecute and defend to final judgment and execution suits wherein said city is a party, and exercise all the powers hereinafter conferred.

SEC. 4. *The city not liable for damages.*—The city shall not be liable or held liable for damages or injuries to persons or property arising from the failure of the municipal board, the mayor, or any other officer or employee, to enforce the provisions of this Charter, or any other law or ordinance, or from negligence of said municipal board, mayor or other city officers or employees while forcing or attempting to enforce the provisions thereof.

SEC. 5. *Jurisdiction of the city.*—The jurisdiction of the city for police purposes shall be coextensive with its territorial jurisdiction, and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the purity of the water supply of the city, such police jurisdiction shall also extend over all territory within the drainage area of such water supply, or within one hundred meters of any reservoir, conduit, canal, aqueduct or pumping station used in connection with the city water service.

SEC. 6. *Salaries of city officers.*—The chief officers of the city shall receive the compensation provided in Republic Act Numbered Eight hundred forty: Provided, That the vice-mayor, superintendent of city schools and the register of deeds shall receive live thousand four hundred, five thousand one hundred and four thousand

two hundred pesos per annum, respectively.

ARTICLE II.—THE MAYOR

SEC. 7. The Mayor.—The mayor shall be elected by the qualified voters of the city during every election for provincial and municipal officials in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Election Code. No person shall be eligible for the position of mayor unless he is at least thirty years of age, a resident of the city for at least five years and a qualified voter therein.

With the approval of the President, the mayor may be provided with a non-commutable allowance of not exceeding two thousand pesos *per annum*.

SEC. 8. *The Vice-Mayor*.—There shall be a vice-mayor who shall perform the duties of mayor in the event of the sickness, absence or other temporary incapacity of the mayor, or in the event of a definite vacancy in the position of mayor, until said office is filled in accordance with law. The vice-mayor shall also preside over the meetings of the Municipal board, but he shall have no right to vote except in case of tie. If, for any reason, the vice-mayor is temporarily incapacitated for the performance of the duties of the mayor, or said office of the vice-mayor is vacant the duties of the mayor shall be performed by the city treasurer. The acting mayor shall have the same powers and duties as the mayor.

The vice-mayor shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the mayor or prescribed by law or ordinance. He shall be elected in the same manner as the mayor and shall at the time of his election possess the same qualification as the mayor. For services as acting mayor the vice-mayor shall receive a total of the compensation equivalent to the salary of the mayor during such period.

SEC. 9. *General powers and duties of the Mayor*.—Unless otherwise provided by law, the mayor shall have immediate control over the executive and administrative functions of the different departments of the city, subject to the supervision of the President. He shall have the following general powers and duties:

- a. To comply with and enforce and give the necessary orders for the faithful enforcement and execution of the provisions of this Charter and other laws and ordinances in effect within the jurisdiction of the city.
- b. To safeguard all the lands, buildings, records, moneys, credits, and other properties and rights of the city, and, subject to the provisions of this Charter, have control over all its property.
- c. To see that all taxes and other revenues of the city are collected, and applied in accordance with appropriations to the payment of the municipal expenses.
- d. To cause to be instituted judicial proceeding to recover property and funds of the city wherever found, to cause to be defended all suits against the city, and otherwise to protect the interests of the city.
- e. To see that the executive officers and employees of the city properly discharge their respective duties.
- f. To examine and inspect the books, records, and papers of all officers, agents, and employees of the city over whom he has executive supervision and control s least, twice a year, and whenever occasion arises. For this purpose he shall be provided by the municipal board with such clerical or other assistance as may be necessary.

- g. To give such information and recommend such to the board as he shall deem advantageous to the city.
- h. To represent the city in all its business matters and sign on its behalf all its bonds, contracts, and obligations made in accordance with law and ordinance.
- i. To submit to the municipal board at least two months before the beginning of each fiscal year a budget of receipts and expenditures of the city.
- j. To receive, hear, and decide as he may deem proper the petitions, complaints, and claims of the residents concerning all cases of municipal matters of an administrative or executive character.
- k. To grant or refuse municipal licenses or permits of all classes and to revoke the same for violation of the conditions upon which they were granted, or if acts prohibited by law or municipal ordinance are being committed under the protection of such licenses or in the premises in which the business for which the same have been granted is carried on, or for any other good reason of general interest.
- l. To exempt, with the concurrence of the superintendent of city schools, deserving poor pupils from the payment of school fees or of any part thereof.
- m. To take such emergency measures as may be necessary to avoid fires and floods and to mitigate the effects of storms and other public calamities.
- n. To submit an annual report to the President of the Philippines.
- o. To perform such other duties and exercise such other executive powers as may be prescribed by law or finance.

SEC. 10. *Secretary to the mayor.*—The mayor shall appoint one secretary who shall hold office at the pleasure of the mayor.

The secretary shall have charge and custody of all records and documents of the city and of any office or department thereof for which provision is not otherwise made; shall keep the corporate seal and affix the same with his signature to all ordinances and resolutions signed by the mayor and to all other official documents and papers of the government of the city as may be required by law or ordinance; shall attest all orders, proclamations, ordinances, and resolutions signed by the mayor; shall, upon request, furnish certified copies of all city records and documents in his charge which are not of a confidential character and shall charge twenty centavos for each one hundred words including the certificate, such fees to be paid directly to the city treasurer; and shall perform such other duties as the mayor may require of him.

ARTICLE III.—THE MUNICIPAL BOARD

SEC. 11. *Constitution and organization of the municipal board—Compensation of members thereof.*—The municipal board shall be the legislative body of the city and shall be composed of the vice-mayor, who shall be its presiding officer, and eight councilors who shall be elected at-large by popular vote during every election for provincial and municipal officials in conformity with the provisions of the Revised Election Code. The said presiding officer shall vote only in case of tie. In case of sickness, absence, suspension or other temporary disability of any member of the board, or if necessary to maintain a *quorum*, the President of the Philippines may appoint a temporary substitute belonging to the same political party, who shall possess all the rights and perform all the duties of a member of the board until the return to duty of the regular incumbent.

If any member of the municipal board should be a candidate for office in any

election, he shall be disqualified to act with the board in the discharge of the duties conferred upon it relative to election matters, and in such case the other members of the board shall discharge said duties without his assistance, or they may choose some disinterested elector of the city to act with the board in such matters in his stead.

SEC. 12. *Qualifications, suspensions and removal of members of the board.*—The members of the municipal board shall be qualified electors of the city, residents therein for at least one year, and not less than twenty-five years of age. Upon qualifying, the members-elect shall assume office on the date fixed in the Revised Election Code until their successors are elected and have qualified.

The members of the municipal board may be suspended or removed from office under the same circumstances, in the same manner, and with the same effect, as elective provincial officers, and the provisions of law providing for the suspension or removal of elective provincial officers are hereby made applicable in the suspension or removal of said members of the board.

Vacancies in the municipal board shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Election Code.

SEC. 13. *Appointment, salary and duties of secretary of board.*—The board shall have a secretary who shall be appointed by it to serve during the term of office of the members thereof. A vacancy in the office of the secretary shall be filled temporarily for the unexpired term in like manner.

The secretary shall be in charge of the records of the municipal board. He shall keep a full record of the proceedings of the board, and file all documents relating thereto; shall record in a book kept for that purpose, all ordinances, and all resolutions and motions directing the Payment of money or creating liability, enacted or adopted the board, with the dates of passage of the same and the publication of ordinances; shall keep a seal, circular in form, with the inscription "Municipal Board—City of Cotabato," and affix the same, with his signature, to all finances and other official acts of the board, and shall present the same for signature to the presiding officer of board; shall cause each ordinance to be published as herein provided; shall, upon request, furnish copies of all of records of public character in his charge under the seal of his office and charge twenty centavos for each one hundred words including the certificate, the fees to be paid directly to the city treasurer; and shall keep his office and all records therein which are not of a confidential character open to public inspection during usual business hours.

SEC. 14. *Methods of transacting business by the board Veto;— authentication and publication of ordinances.*—Unless the President of the Philippines orders otherwise, the board shall hold one ordinary session for the transaction of business during each week on a day which shall be fixed by resolution, and such extraordinary sessions, not exceeding thirty during any one year, as may be called by the mayor. It shall sit with open doors, unless otherwise ordered by an affirmative vote of live members. It shall keep a record of its proceedings and determine its rule of procedure not herein set forth. Five members of the board shall constitute a *quorum* for the transaction of business. But a smaller number may adjourn from day to day and may compel the immediate attendance of any member absent without good cause by issuing to the police of the city an order for his arrest and production at the

session under such penalties as shall have been previously prescribed by ordinance. Five affirmative votes shall be necessary for the passage of any ordinance, or of any resolution or motion directing the payment of money or creating liability, but any other measure shall prevail, upon the majority votes of the members present at any meeting duly called and held. The *ayes* and *nays* shall be taken and recorded upon the passage of all ordinances, upon all resolutions or motions directing the payment of money or creating liability, and at the request of any member, upon any other resolution or motion. Each approved ordinance, resolution or motion shall be sealed with the seal of the board, signed by the presiding officer and the secretary of the board and recorded in a book kept for the purpose, and shall, on the day following its passage, be posted by the secretary at the main entrance to the city hall, and shall take effect and be in force on and after the ten day following its passage unless otherwise stated in said ordinance, resolution or motion, or vetoed by the mayor as hereinafter provided. A vetoed ordinance, if repassed shall take effect ten days after the veto is overridden by the required votes unless otherwise stated in the ordinance or again disapproved by the mayor within said time.

Each ordinance and each resolution or motion directing the payment of money or creating liability enacted or adopted by the board shall be forwarded to the mayor for his approval. Within ten days after the receipt of the ordinance, resolution, or motion, the mayor shall return it with his approval or veto. If he does not return it within that time, it shall be deemed to be approved. If he returns it with his veto, his reasons therefor in writing shall accompany it. It may then be again enacted by the affirmative votes of six members of the board, and again forwarded to the mayor for his approval, and if within ten days after its receipt he does not again return it with his veto, it shall be deemed to be approved. If within said time he again returns it with his veto, it shall be forwarded forthwith to the President of the Philippines for his approval or disapproval, which shall be final. The mayor shall have the power to veto any particular items of an appropriation ordinance, or of an ordinance, resolution or motion directing the payment of money or creating liability, but the veto shall not affect the item or items to which he does not object. The item or items objected shall not take effect except in the manner heretofore provided in this section as to ordinances, resolutions, and motions returned to the board with his veto, but should item or items in an appropriation ordinance be disproved by the mayor, the corresponding item or items the appropriation ordinance of the previous year shall deemed restored unless otherwise expressly directed in the veto.

SEC. 15. *General powers and duties of the board.*—Except as otherwise provided by the law, and subject to the editions and limitations thereof, the municipal board shall have the following legislative powers:

- (a) To provide for the levy and collection of taxes for general and special purposes in accordance with law including specifically the power to levy real property tax not exceed *two per centum ad valorem*.
- (b) To make all appropriations for the expenses of the government of the city.
- (c) To fix with the approval of the department head the number and salaries of officials and employees of the city not otherwise provided for in this Act.
- (d) To authorize, with the approval of the department head, the free distribution of medicines to the employees and laborers of the city whose salary or wage, does not exceed sixty