

Bill of Incorporation  
and  
City Charter  
for the  
City of Bonita Springs  
(Codified April 2020 Edition)



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## **Bill of Incorporation**

An act relating to Lee County; creating the City of Bonita Springs; providing for municipal boundaries and municipal powers; providing for a City-Manager form of government; providing for annexation and establishing a 5-year moratorium prior to the annexation of an area into the corporate limits of the City of Bonita Springs; providing for the general powers and duties to be exercised by the City; providing for nonpartisan elections of the City Council, their terms and term limits; creating Council Districts; providing for membership qualifications, powers, and duties of the City Council including the Mayor; providing for compensation and expenses of City Council members; providing circumstances resulting in vacancy in the office of City Council; providing grounds for forfeiture and suspension, and for filling vacancies in the City Council; providing for meetings and keeping of records; providing for referendum election; providing for campaign spending limits; providing for appointment of officers including City Manager and City Attorney; providing for powers and duties of City Manager; providing for code of technical regulation; providing for adoption of ordinances and resolutions to include emergency ordinances; providing for first year expenses; providing for adoption of annual budget and appropriations; providing for capital programs; providing for a debt limit on the amount of outstanding long-term liabilities; providing for referendum petitions and for recall; providing for code of ethics; providing for amendments to the City Charter; providing for participation in State shared revenue and local option gas taxes; providing for initial election of City Council and early assumption of duties; providing for a transitional period and for County ordinances and services during the transitional period; providing effective dates; providing for an annual financial audit; providing for severability; providing for a referendum; providing an effective date.

### **The Charter**

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

#### **Article I**

The charter for the City of Bonita Springs is created to read:

##### **Section 1. Short title.**

This act, together with any future amendments thereto, shall be known and may be cited as the City of Bonita Springs Charter, hereinafter referred to as the “charter.”

##### **Section 2. Legislative intent.**

The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the City of Bonita Springs in Lee County includes a compact and contiguous community of approximately 33 square miles (21,120 acres) and 38,003 permanent residents susceptible to urban services, and constitutes a community amenable to separate municipal government. *[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

##### **Section 3. Incorporation of municipality; corporate limits.**

There is hereby created, effective December 31, 1999, in Lee County, a new municipality to be known as the City of Bonita Springs, which shall have a City-Manager form of government. The corporate boundaries of the City of Bonita Springs, hereinafter referred to as the “city,” shall be as described in Section 6.

#### **Section 4. Preamble.**

The preamble to the charter shall read:

We, the people of the Bonita Springs Community, by the grace of God and pursuant to the authority granted by the Constitution and the laws of the United States and of the State of Florida, in order to secure the benefits of local self-government, and otherwise to promote the common welfare of all citizens, do hereby ordain and establish this charter for the City of Bonita Springs.

#### **Section 5. Purpose.**

The purpose clause of the charter:

We, the people of the City of Bonita Springs, desiring to avail ourselves of the right to establish a home-rule charter, in accordance with the Constitution and the laws of the State of Florida, do ordain and establish this charter and form of government for the City of Bonita Springs.

#### **Section 6. Boundaries.**

The territorial boundaries of the City of Bonita Springs, upon the date of incorporation, shall include the following areas situated in the County of Lee, State of Florida:

Beginning at a point at the northeast corner of Section 18, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, proceed southward along the easterly section line of Sections 18 and 19 thence along the westerly right-of-way line of Bonita Grande Drive to the southern right-of-way line of Bonita Beach Road on the line separating Sections 5 and 6 in Township 48 South, Range 26 East. From thence proceed eastward for two miles to the section line separating Sections 4 and 3 of Range 26 East, Township 48 South. From there proceed south along the section line for one mile to the Lee/Collier County line. The southern boundary shall then proceed west along the Lee/Collier boundary until it reaches Vanderbilt Drive, at which point it will follow the Lee/Collier boundary north for one mile along Vanderbilt Drive. The boundary shall then proceed west along the section line separating Section 5 of Township 48 South, Range 25, East, and Section 32 of Township 47 South, Range 25 East, being the Lee/Collier boundary, until it reaches a point 500 feet west of the high tide mark of the Gulf of Mexico. The western boundary of the City of Bonita Springs shall be a line drawn 500 feet westward of the mean high tide line and extending from the section line separating Section 6 of Township 48 South, Range 25 East, in Collier County from Section 31, Township 47 South, Range 25 East, in Lee County northwest to the section line separating Sections 10 and 3 in Township 47 South, Range 24 East, in Lee County. From there the boundary shall extend east, northeast, north, east, and south following a line drawn 500 feet from the mean high tide of Lovers Key and Black Island, returning to the section line separating Sections 2 and 11, thence proceeding eastward to the westerly section line of Section 7, Township 47 South, Range 25 East. From there proceed southward along the westerly boundary of Section 7, to the southwest corner of Section 7, Township 47 South, Range 25 East, Lee County, Florida. From there proceed east along the section line for approximately seven miles to the point of beginning.

Following Incorporation, the City of Bonita Springs has redefined its boundaries\* by annexing the following properties within its corporate boundaries:

- Ord. No. 02-12: Corkscrew Growers, Section 3, Township 48, Range 26, (+/- 649 Acres)

- Ord. No. 03-09: Bonita Farms, Sections 17 & 20, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, (+/-1,268 Acres)
- Ord. No. 03-11: Gatterer, described as the North Half (N ½) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of the Northwest Quarter (NW ¼) of Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, (+ 20 acres)
- Ord. No. 03-12: Five of Seven, described as the West half of the Northwest quarter of the Northwest quarter of the Northeast quarter, being in Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East and the North half of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, and the South half of the Northeast quarter of the Northwest of Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East (+ 45 acres)
- Ord. No. 04-03: Bonita Beach Road RPD, Sections 1 & 2, Township 48 South, Range 26 East, (+1,299 acres)
- Ord. No. 04-05: Cleveland Clinic, described as the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, and the North 264 feet of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, and the South 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4, Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, (+ 25 acres)
- Ord. No. 05-10: Bonita Springs Fire Control & Rescue District, described as Commencing at the NW Corner of the SW Quarter of Section 32, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida; Thence Run S 01'01 "04" W, along the West Line of the SW Quarter of Section 32, for a distance of 631.03 Feet; Thence Run S 89'10'32" E for a distance of 50.00 feet to the point of beginning of the parcel of land described herein; thence continue S 89'10'32" E for a distance of 277.10' feet; thence run N 00'58'25" E for a distance of 626.31 feet; thence run S 89'13'34" E for a distance of 326.62 feet; thence run S 00'55'45" W for a distance of 1258.20 feet; thence run N 89'07'30" W for a distance of 605.19 feet; thence run N 01'01'04" E for a distance of 631.07 feet to the POB, (+ 13.465 acres)
- Ord. No. 06-09: Lin & Kuhlman, described as Southeast corner of Section 33, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida; thence run Westerly along the South line of said Section and the centerline of Bonita Beach Road for 986.13 +/- feet to the Southeast corner of the West ½ of the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of said Section and the Point of beginning; thence Northerly along the East line of said fraction 640.14 +/- feet to the Northeast corner of said fraction; thence Westerly along the North line of said fraction 328.40 +/- feet to the Northwest corner of the West ½ of the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of said Section 33; thence Southerly along the West line of said fraction for 639.84 +/- feet to the South line of Section 33, Township 47 South, Range 26 east also being the centerline of Bonita Beach Road; thence Easterly along the South line of Section 33, marking the centerline of Bonita Beach Road for 328.71 +/- feet to the Point of Beginning(+ 5.00 acres)
- Ord. No. 07-01: Haines, described as the West ½ of the Southwest ¼ of the Southwest ¼ of the Southeast ¼ of Section 33, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida (+ 5.00 acres)
- Ord. No. 07-16, East Bonita Properties Owners, as described fully in the Ordinance, in Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida (+ 331.80 acres)

The territorial boundaries of the City of Bonita Springs includes coastal areas and/or islands which are located within 2 miles of the territorial boundaries of Fort Myers Beach, because of such extraordinary

natural boundaries, it requires the presence of a separate municipal government for these coastal and/or island areas.

\* In accordance with Florida Statutes §166.031(3), the City of Bonita Springs may, by ordinance and without referendum redefine its boundaries to include only those lands previously annexed and shall file said redefinition with the Department of State. Until such time that the boundaries are redefined, the annexation actions are listed by Ordinance, name, legal description and acreage size.

**Section 7. Extension of the corporate limits; annexation.**

For a period of 5 years from the date the City is created, no area currently within the Estero Fire and Rescue District shall be annexed into the corporate limits of Bonita Springs. With this exception, the corporate limits of the City may be revised and expanded as provided by general law.

**Section 8. Form of government.**

The form of government established under this charter shall be a City-Manager form as herein provided, with a governing body known as the City Council consisting of a Mayor and six City Council members who will be elected in the manner hereinafter provided. The City Council will constitute the governing body of the City, with the duties and responsibilities hereinafter provided. Unless explicitly stated otherwise in the Charter, the terms City Council or Council as used throughout the Charter shall mean the Mayor and six City Council members collectively as one governing body. City Council may, after a public hearing, enact an ordinance to amend any provision of this Charter to correct usage as to this intent. The City Council shall appoint a City Manager to be the Chief Administrative Officer of the City and who shall serve at the pleasure of the City Council.

*[Section 8 amended by Charter Amendment 1, Election 1-26-10]*

**Section 9. Powers of the City.**

The City shall be a body corporate and politic and shall have all the powers of a municipality under the Florida Constitution and laws of the State of Florida, as fully and completely as though such powers were specifically enumerated in the charter. In accordance with the Florida Constitution and statutes of the State of Florida, the City of Bonita Springs shall have all governmental, corporate, and proprietary powers to enable it to conduct municipal government, perform municipal functions and render municipal services, and may exercise any of its powers for municipal purposes, except when expressly prohibited by law.

**Section 10. Construction.**

The powers of the City under this charter shall be construed liberally in favor of the City, and the specific mention of particular powers in the charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general power granted by this charter.

**Section 11. Intergovernmental relations.**

The City may exercise any of its powers or perform any of its functions and may participate in the financing thereof, jointly or in cooperation, by contract or otherwise, with any one or more states, counties, municipalities, special districts, or any agencies thereof, or the United States or any agencies thereof.

## **Section 12. Powers vested in City Council.**

All powers of the City shall be vested in the City Council, except as otherwise provided by law or this charter, and the Council shall provide for the exercise thereof and for the performance of all duties and obligations imposed on the City by law.

## **Section 13. Composition of City Council, eligibility, elections, terms, term limits.**

- (a) There shall be a City Council composed of the Mayor and six Council members. One Council member shall be nominated and elected by the voters in each of the six Council districts. Each Council member, excluding the Mayor, must reside in the district they represent. The Mayor shall be elected at-large within the City in the manner provided for in this charter and must reside within the City.
- (b) Only registered voters of the City shall be eligible to hold the office of Council member or Mayor. Candidates qualifying for any seat on the Council shall have been residents and registered voters of the particular district for a minimum of six months immediately preceding the commencement of the term of office and must be a resident of the District they represent during their incumbency. Candidates qualifying for Mayor shall have been residents and registered voters of the city for a minimum of six months immediately preceding the commencement of the term of office and must be a resident of the City during their incumbency.

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 07-11, adopted 8-1-07]*

*[Section 13(b) amended by Charter Amendment 1, Election 1-29-08]*

- (c) The regular election of Council members and the Mayor will be set by ordinance. All Council members and the Mayor shall serve for terms of four (4) years, as adjusted by election dates. The terms of Council members and the Mayor shall begin on the date of the certification of their election. Each Council member and the Mayor will remain in office until a successor is elected certified as being elected to such office. No one shall serve, or but for resignation would have served, more than eight (8) consecutive years, or two (2) complete terms, in the singular position of Mayor or Council member or more than sixteen (16) consecutive years, or four (4) complete terms, in any combination of the positions of Mayor and Council member. The foregoing limitations shall not apply to the succession or election to fill a vacancy in a term of office for a period of less than two (2) years. After two (2) years out of office an individual may qualify for any seat on the City Council as a Council member or as Mayor, however, resignation from office that results in such individual being out of office for two (2) years shall constitute a complete term, regardless of the time in office.

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 01-21, adopted 12-19-01]*

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 07-12, adopted 8-1-07]*

*[Section 13(c) amended by Charter Amendment 2, Election 1-26-10]*

- (d) Any elector of the City who wishes to become a candidate for a City elective office shall qualify with the City Clerk. Candidates must submit their names and proof of qualification, as described in this charter and in the applicable provisions of Chapter 99, Florida Statutes, to the office of the Lee County Supervisor of Elections between the first and fourteenth business day of the October prior to the election. Proof of qualification includes proof of current address and compliance with the residency requirement. Each candidate shall pay a qualifying fee as set forth in the Florida elections laws for municipal candidates.

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 07-11, adopted 8-1-07]*



*[Revised by Ordinance No. 07-12, adopted 8-1-07]*  
*[Section 13(d) amended by Charter Amendment 1, Election 1-29-08]*  
*[Section 13(d) amended by Charter Amendment 2, Election 1-26-10]*

#### **Section 14. Nonpartisan election.**

All elections to the office of Mayor or City Council shall be conducted on a nonpartisan basis without designation of any political affiliation for any candidate on any ballot.

#### **Section 15. Referendum spending limits; campaign spending limits.**

- (a) There shall be a maximum cap of not more than \$1. per registered voter in the City placed on campaign spending for any referendum vote for or against such referendum question. Effective February 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the cap shall be increased based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (or successor reports) for the preceding calendar year or three (3%) percent, whichever is less.
- (b) No candidate for a Council member seat may spend more than \$2. per registered voter in his or her District (as of the preceding municipal general election) on an election. No candidate for Mayor may spend more than \$2. per registered voter (as of the preceding municipal general election) in the City on an election. Effective February 1, 2010, and annually thereafter, the cap shall be increased based on the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) (or successor reports) for the preceding calendar year or three (3%) percent, whichever is less. The candidate spending limit applies to all campaign spending, whether a direct expenditure from a candidate or by an indirect source such as a group, club, association or other organization, including a political action committee.

*[Section 15(b) amended by Charter Amendment 1, Election 3-9-04]*  
*[Section 15 amended by Charter Amendment 3, Election 1-26-10]*

#### **Section 16. Adoption of election procedure.**

The Council, by ordinance, may adopt such election procedures as are necessary and as provided by Florida law.

#### **Section 17. Multiple candidates.**

The candidate who receives the highest number of votes cast for the seat or for the office for which he or she is running shall be declared to be elected. In the event of a tie between the candidates for any seat in the general election, following a mandatory recount, another election shall be held on the earliest date that the run-off election can be conducted. The candidates receiving the equal votes shall be the only candidates on the ballot for the run-off election.

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-22, adopted 11-19-03]*  
*[Section 17 amended by Charter Amendment 4, Election 1-26-10]*

#### **Section 18. Mayor.**

A Mayor shall be elected, at-large, and shall serve for a term of 4 years. The Mayor shall be a voting member of the City Council and shall preside at meetings of the City Council, represent the City in intergovernmental relationships, appoint with the advice and consent of the other members of the City Council the members of citizen advisory boards and commissions, present an annual "State of the City Message," and perform other duties as specified by the City Council and this Charter. The Mayor shall be

recognized as head of the City government for all ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of martial law, but shall have no administrative duties. In addition to any other duties, the Mayor shall have a voice and a vote in all City Council proceedings, but shall have no veto power. The Council shall elect, from among its members, a Deputy Mayor who shall act as Mayor during the absence or disability of the Mayor.

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

*[Section 18 amended by Charter Amendment 5, Election 1-26-10]*

*[Section 18 amended by Charter Amendment 1, Election 3-17-20]*

## **Section 19. Compensation; expenses.**

The Mayor shall receive \$22,596.00 annually, payable monthly, and each City Council member shall receive \$16,947.00 annually, payable monthly, as compensation for their services. This amount of compensation shall be revised annually based on a cost of living adjustment (COLA) published by the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index, South Region, in effect as of April 1st of that year, or a comparable index if it is no longer published. The Council may provide for reimbursement of actual expenses incurred by its members, including the Mayor, while performing their official duties. From time to time, but in no event less often than every four 4 years, the city council shall appoint an advisory committee, consisting of 5 electors, for the purpose of studying and making recommendations to the council on the level of compensation, exclusive of COLA adjustments provided above, and benefits for the mayor and councilmembers. If, whether based on such recommendation or otherwise, the council takes action to change the level of compensation for the members then sitting on the council, such change shall begin on the first day following the next ensuing regular municipal election.

*[Section 19 amended by Charter Amendment 2, Election 3-9-04]*

*[Section 19 amended by Charter Amendment 2 and 3, Election 3-17-20]*

## **Section 20. Prohibitions.**

- (a) Except where authorized by law, no Council member including the Mayor shall hold any other elected public office during the term for which the member was elected. Neither the Mayor nor any Council member shall hold any other City office or City employment during the terms for which the member was elected to the Council. Neither the Mayor nor any Council member shall hold any office or employment with the City prior to 2 years after the expiration of the term for which the member was elected. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Council from appointing any current or former Mayor or Council member to represent the City on the governing board of any regional or other intergovernmental agency.
- (b) Neither the City Council nor any of its members shall in any manner control or demand the appointment or removal of any City Administrative Officer or employee whom the City Manager, or any subordinate of the City Manager, is empowered to appoint, but the Council may express its views and freely discuss with the City Manager anything pertaining to appointment and/or removal of such officers and employees.
- (c) Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations as provided for in this charter, the Council or its members shall deal with the City officers and employees who are subject to the direction and supervision of the City Manager solely through the City Manager, and neither the Council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

*[Section 21(c) amended by Charter Amendment 5, Election 1-26-10]*

**Section 21. Vacancies; forfeitures of office; filling vacancies.**

- (a) The office of a Council member, including the Mayor, shall become vacant upon the member's death, resignation, inability to fulfill the duties of the office, movement of residence outside the District, or removal from office as authorized by law or this charter.
- (b) A Council member shall forfeit the office if the Council member: lacks at any time during the term of office any qualification for the office prescribed by this charter or as provided by law; violates any express prohibition of this charter; is convicted of a crime involving a felony or moral turpitude; or fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Council without being excused by the Council.
- (c) A vacancy on the City Council shall be filled by Special Election for the remainder of the unexpired term by a representative from the incumbent's district to serve until the next general election. In the event the Mayor becomes unable to fulfill the duties of office, ceases to be qualified, or is removed from office as provided by law or this charter, the Deputy Mayor of the Council shall assume the full powers and duties of the Mayor until the new Mayor can be seated. If the vacancy occurs within 180 days of a general election then no special election shall be called and the seat will remain vacant until filled upon the outcome of the general election.  
*[Section 21 amended by Charter Amendment 5, Election 3-12-02]*  
*[Section 21 amended by Charter Amendment 5, Election 1-26-10]*  
*[Section 21 amended by Charter Amendment 1, Election 3-17-20]*

**Section 22. Judge of qualifications.**

The Council shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its members and of the grounds for forfeiture of their office. The Council shall have the power to set additional written standards of conduct for its members beyond those specified in this charter and may provide for such penalties as it deems appropriate, including forfeiture of office. In order to exercise these powers, the Council shall have power to subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and require the production of evidence. A member charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand, and notice of such hearing shall be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the City at least 7 days in advance of the hearing. Decisions made by the Council under this section shall be subject to judicial review.

**Section 23. Investigations.**

The City Council may make investigations into the affairs of the City and the conduct of any City department, office, or agency and for this purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence. Failure or refusal to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by the Council shall be a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not more than \$500., or by imprisonment for not more than 60 days; or both such fine and imprisonment.

**Section 24. Meetings.**

The Council shall meet regularly at least once every month at such time and place as the Council may prescribe. Special meetings may be held on the call of the Mayor or of four or more members and, whenever practical, upon no less than 48 hours' notice, exclusive of any weekend hours, to each member and the public. Special meetings called to address a state of emergency may be called upon no less than 12 hours' notice, however the council shall be limited to taking actions solely to address the emergency

situation. Action taken at a special meeting shall be limited to the purpose for which the special meeting is called. Nothing herein shall prohibit the council from holding workshops or other meetings where no action is taken upon no less than 24 hours' notice. Except as authorized by law, all meetings shall be open to the public.

*[Section 24 amended by Charter Amendment 4, Election 3-17-20]*

### **Section 25. Rules and journal.**

The Council shall determine its own rules and order of business and shall provide for keeping a journal of its proceedings. Except as authorized by state law, the journal and minutes shall be public record.

### **Section 26. Voting by City Council.**

Voting, except on procedural motions, shall be by roll call with the ayes and nays recorded in the journal. Four council members shall constitute a quorum, but a small number may adjourn from time-to-time and may compel the attendance of absent members in the manner and subject to the penalties prescribed by the rules of the Council. No action of the Council, except as otherwise provided for in this charter, shall be valid or binding unless adopted by the affirmative vote of four or more Council members.

### **Section 27. Actions requiring an ordinance.**

In addition to other acts required by law or by specific provision of this charter to be done by ordinance, those acts of the City Council shall be by ordinance which:

- (a) Establish, alter, or abolish any City department, office, or agency;
- (b) Grant, renew, or extend a franchise;
- (c) Regulate the rate charged for its services by a public or private utility when not regulated or preempted by state law;
- (d) Authorize the borrowing of money;
- (e) Convey or lease, or authorize the conveyance or lease of, any City real property when the value of the lease or conveyance exceeds \$15,000; and
- (f) Regulate land use and development.

Acts other than those referred to in this section may be done either by ordinance or by resolution.

*[Former 27(b) Fines & Forfeitures & (i) Ord., deleted by Charter Amendment 7, Election 3-12-02]*

*[Former 27(c) Levy Taxes, deleted by Charter Amendment 8, Election 3-12-02]*

*[Section 27(c) amended by Charter Amendment 9, Election 3-12-02]*

*[Section 27(a) amended by Charter Amendment 3, Election 3-09-04]*

*[Section 27(e) amended by Charter Amendment 4, Election 3-09-04]*

## **Section 28. Ordinances and resolutions; definitions.**

As used in this charter, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings unless some other meaning is plainly indicated:

- (a) “Ordinance” means an official legislative action of the Council which action is a regulation of general and permanent nature and enforceable as a local law.
- (b) “Resolution” means an expression of the City Council concerning matters of administration and expressions of a temporary character or a provision for the disposition of a particular item of the administrative business of the City Council.

## **Section 29. Ordinances in general.**

- (a) Every proposed ordinance shall be introduced in writing and in the form required for final adoption. No ordinance shall contain more than one subject together with matters properly connected therewith which will be clearly expressed in its title. The enacting clause shall be “The City of Bonita Springs hereby ordains.....”. All ordinances shall be adopted as provided for in Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, as such may be amended from time-to-time.
- (b) An ordinance may be introduced by any member at any regular or special meeting of the Council. Upon introduction of any ordinance, the City Clerk/Treasurer shall distribute a copy to each Council member and to the City Manager, shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office of the City Clerk/Treasurer and such other public places as the Council may designate, and shall publish the ordinance together with a notice setting forth the time and place for a public hearing thereon and for its consideration by the Council.

*[Section 29 amended by Charter Amendment 5, Election 3-17-20]*

## **Section 30. Emergency ordinances.**

To meet a public emergency affecting life, health, property, or the public peace, the City Council may, except where prohibited by general law, adopt one or more emergency ordinances, but such ordinances may not: levy taxes; grant, renew, or extend a franchise; regulate the rate charged by any utility for its services; or authorize the borrowing of money except as provided in this charter. No emergency ordinance shall be adopted that establishes or amends the zoning map designation of a parcel or parcels of land or that changes the list of permitted, conditional, or prohibited uses within a zoning category. An emergency ordinance shall be plainly designated as an emergency ordinance and shall contain, after the enacting clause, a declaration stating that an emergency exists and describing it in clear and specific terms. An emergency ordinance may be adopted with or without amendments or rejected at the meeting at which it is introduced, but the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members voting shall be required for adoption. After its adoption the ordinance shall be published and printed as prescribed for other adopted ordinances. It shall become effective upon adoption or at such later time as may be specified. Every emergency ordinance except one made pursuant to Section 46(B) of this charter shall automatically stand repealed as of the 61<sup>st</sup> day following the date on which it was adopted, but this shall not prevent reenactment of the ordinance in the manner specified in this section if the emergency still exists. An emergency ordinance may also be repealed by adoption of a repealing ordinance in the same manner specified in this section for adoption of ordinances.

**Section 31. Codes of technical regulations.**

The City Council may adopt any standard code of technical regulation by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such an adopting ordinance shall be as prescribed for ordinances generally except that:

- (a) The requirements in this charter for distribution and filing of copies of the ordinance shall be construed to include copies of the code of technical regulations as well as of the adopting ordinance; and
- (b) A copy of each adopted code of technical regulations as well as of the adopting ordinance shall be authenticated and recorded by the City Clerk/Treasurer.

Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the City Clerk/Treasurer for distribution or purchase at a reasonable price.

**Section 32. Reserved.**

*[Section 32 amended by Charter Amendment 6, Election 3-17-20]*

**Section 33. Appointment; qualifications; compensation of the City Manager.**

The City Council by a majority vote of its total membership shall appoint a City Manager for an indefinite term and fix the Manager’s compensation, and approve the reimbursement of City-related expenses. The City Manager shall be appointed on the strength of executive, administrative, and municipal experience and qualifications. At the time of appointment, the Manager does not need to be a resident of the City or State, but may not reside outside the City while in office without approval of the Council. The Council shall put its goals in writing to the City Manager annually, and the Council shall have an annual written evaluation of the performance of the City Manager.

**Section 34. Removal of City Manager.**

The City Manager may be suspended by a resolution approved by majority vote of the City Council, which shall set forth the reasons for suspension and proposed removal. A copy of such resolution shall immediately be served upon the City Manager. The City Manager shall have 15 days to reply thereto in writing, and upon request, shall be afforded a public hearing, which shall occur not earlier than 15 days or later than 30 days after such hearing is requested. After the public hearing, if one is requested, and after full consideration, the City Council, by a majority vote of its total membership, may adopt a final resolution of removal. The City Manager will continue to receive full salary until the effective date of a final resolution of removal.

**Section 35. Acting City Manager.**

By letter filed with the City Clerk/Treasurer, the City Manager shall designate a City Officer or employee to exercise the powers and perform the duties of City Manager during the Manager’s temporary absence or disability. The City Council may revoke such designation at any time and appoint another officer of the City to serve until the City Manager returns.

### **Section 36. Powers and duties of the City Manager.**

The City Manager shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the City, responsible to the Council for the administration of all City affairs placed in the Manager's charge by or under this charter or as directed by the Council.

The City Manager shall:

- (a) Appoint and, when necessary for the good of the City, suspend or remove any City employees and appointive administrative officers, except as otherwise provided by law, this charter, or personnel rules adopted pursuant to this charter. The City Manager may authorize any administrative officer, subject to the Manager's direction and supervision, to exercise these powers with respect to subordinates in that officer's department, office, or agency;
- (b) Direct and supervise the administration of all departments, offices, and agencies of the City, except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law;
- (c) Attend the City Council meetings; the City Manager shall have the right to take part in discussion but shall not vote;
- (d) Ensure that all state and federal laws, provisions of the charter, and acts of the City Council are faithfully executed;
- (e) Prepare and submit the annual budget and capital expenditures program to the City Council;
- (f) Submit to the City Council and make available to the public a complete report on the finances and administrative activities of the City as of the end of each fiscal year;
- (g) Make such other reports as the City Council may require concerning the operations of the City departments, offices, and agencies subject to the City Manager's direction and supervision;
- (h) Keep the City Council fully advised as to the financial condition and future needs of the City;
- (i) Make recommendations to the City Council concerning the affairs of the City;
- (j) Provide staff support for the Mayor and Council members;
- (k) Perform such other duties as are specified in this charter or as may be required in writing by the City Council;
- (l) Contract for services where authorized by law and approved by the Council; and
- (m) Have written goals for all City employees and written performance reviews of all City personnel.

### **Section 37 City Clerk/Finance Director**

- (a) City Clerk. There shall be a City Clerk who shall be appointed by the City Manager with the consent of the City Council. The City Clerk shall serve at the pleasure of the City Manager and shall:
  - 1. Give notice of City Council meetings to its members and the public;

2. Keep the journal and minutes of the proceedings of the City Council;
  3. Authenticate by signature and record, in books kept for that purpose, all ordinances and resolutions passed by the City Council;
  4. Be custodian of the City's seal;
  5. Have the power to administer oaths; and
  6. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the City Manager.
- (b) City Finance Director. There shall be a City Finance Director who shall be appointed by the City Manager with the consent of the Council. The Finance Director shall serve at the pleasure of the City Manager and shall:
1. Receive, safely keep, and disburse, under the direction of the Council, all funds belonging to or under the control of the City, and keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements in such manner as the City Manager shall direct. All checks drawn upon depository of City funds shall be countersigned by those persons designated by resolution of the City Council;
  2. To invest all funds of the City according to law, and the instructions of the City Council;
  3. To pay out on behalf of the City under the supervision of the City Manager by checks or other orders of payment, all payments due from the City, provided that the City Council shall provide by resolution, the manner in which all checks or other orders of payment are to be signed, which shall require at least two (2) countersignatures, all of which may be by facsimile or other electronic means;
  4. To prescribe all records and forms pertaining to the disbursement and receipt of funds;
  5. To submit monthly financial statements to the City Council showing all receipts and disbursements, and the financial condition of the City;
  6. To furnish to the City Manager such financial services as may be required from time to time;
  7. Have access to inspect, copy, or take possession of all records relating to the receipt or expenditure of funds of the City;
  8. Require regular reports from each department, office or employee receiving or disbursing funds of the City, showing the amounts, source and purpose thereof;
  9. Keep an accurate account of all appropriations made by the City Council;
  10. To work with the independent auditor employed annually by City Council to make a complete audit of the City; and
  11. Perform such other duties as may be assigned by the City Manager.
- (c) City Council may, after a public hearing, adopt an ordinance to amend any Charter provision to separate the duties of the City Clerk or Finance Director.

*[Section 37 amended by Charter Amendment 9, Election 1-26-10]*

### **Section 38. General provisions.**

- (a) The City Council may establish City departments, offices, or agencies in addition to those created by this charter and may prescribe the functions of all departments, offices, and agencies.
- (b) All departments, offices, and agencies under the direction and supervision of the City Manager may be administered by an officer appointed by, and subject to, the direction and supervision of the City Manager. With the consent of Council, the City Manager may serve as the head of one or more such departments, offices, or agencies or may appoint one person as the head of two or more of them.



### **Section 39. Personnel.**

- (a) All appointments, salary increases, and promotions of City officers and employees shall be made solely on the basis of merit and fitness demonstrated by a valid and reliable review of such officer or employee's performance against goals, or other evidence of competence.
- (b) Consistent with all applicable federal and state laws, the City Council shall provide by ordinance for the establishment, regulation, and maintenance of a merit system governing personnel policies necessary for effective administration of the employees of the City's departments, offices, and agencies, including, but not limited to, classification and pay plans, examinations, force reduction, removals, working conditions, provisional and exempt appointments, in-service training, grievances, and relationships with employee organizations.

### **Section 40. Planning.**

Consistent with all applicable federal and state laws with respect to land use, development and environmental protection, the City Council shall:

- (a) Designate an agency or agencies to carry out the planning function with such decision making responsibilities as may be specified by ordinance or by Florida Statutes;
- (b) Adopt a comprehensive plan and ensure that zoning and other land use control ordinances are consistent with the plan, all in accordance with Florida Statutes;
- (c) Adopt zoning and/or development regulations, to be specified by ordinance, to implement the plan.

### **Section 41. City Attorney.**

There shall be a City Attorney, who shall be a member of The Florida Bar in good standing, appointed by the Council, who may represent the City in all legal proceedings and shall perform all other duties as assigned by the Council. The Council may remove the City Attorney for any reasons by a majority vote of its total membership. The City Attorney shall serve as chief legal advisor to the Council and all City departments, offices, and agencies. The City Attorney shall attend Council meetings unless excused by the Council and shall perform such professional duties as may be required by law or by the Council in furtherance of the law.

### **Section 42. Fiscal year.**

The fiscal year of the City shall begin on the first day of October and end on the last day of September of each year.

### **Section 43. Submission of budget and budget message.**

On or before the 15 day of August of each year, the City Manager shall submit to the City Council a budget for the ensuing fiscal year and an accompanying message.

- (a) The City Manager's message shall explain the budget both in fiscal terms and in terms of the work programs. It shall outline the proposed financial policies of the City and summarize the City's debt position.

- (b) The budget shall provide a complete financial plan of all City funds and activities for the ensuing fiscal year and, except as required by law or this charter, shall be in such form as the City Manager deems desirable or the City Council may require. It will include estimated income and expenditures for the ensuing fiscal year compared with actual income and expenditure figures for the past fiscal year.

**Section 44. Reserved.**

*[Section 44 amended by Charter Amendment 7, Election 3-17-20]*

**Section 45. Appropriation; revenue; surety bond ordinances.**

To implement the adopted budget, the City Council shall adopt, prior to the beginning of the ensuing fiscal year;

- (a) Make appropriations by department or major organizational unit and authorizing a single appropriation for each department or unit;
- (b) Authorize the property tax levy and setting the tax rate; and
- (c) Authorize new revenues or amend the rates of existing taxes or other revenue sources.

The City Council shall determine which City officers and employees shall be required to furnish a surety bond to the City, the amount of such bonds, and the amount of penalty thereof.

*[Section 45 amended by Charter Amendment 13, Election 3-12-02]*

**Section 46. Amendments after adoption.**

- (a) If during the fiscal year, revenues in excess of those estimated in the budget are available for appropriation, the City Council may make supplemental appropriations for the year in an amount not to exceed such excess, or carry over excess revenues into the next fiscal year.
- (b) To meet a public emergency the City Council may make emergency appropriations in accordance with state and federal laws. If sufficient funds are not available to meet such emergencies the City Council may authorize emergency notes to be paid not later than the last day of the fiscal year next succeeding that in which the emergency appropriation was made.
- (c) If, at any time during the fiscal year, it appears probable to the City Manager that the revenues available will be insufficient to meet the amount appropriated, the Manager shall report same to the Council without delay, indicating the estimated amount of the deficit, any remedial action taken and recommendations as to any other steps that should be taken. The Council shall then take such further action as it deems necessary to prevent or minimize any deficit and, for that purpose, the Council may by resolution reduce one or more appropriations accordingly.
- (d) Where authorized by general law, the City Council, at any time during the fiscal year, may by resolution provide for the transfer of all or part of any unrestricted appropriations balance from one department to another department within the City.

- (e) No appropriation for debt service may be reduced or transferred, and no appropriation may be reduced below any amount required by law to be appropriated, or by more than the unencumbered balance thereof. The supplemental and emergency appropriations and reduction or transfer of appropriations authorized by this section may be made effective immediately upon adoption.
- (f) The City charter hereby provides for a legal debt limit which caps the amount of outstanding long-term liabilities to 10 percent of the assessed property value within the City.

*[Amended by Charter Amendment 13, Election 3-12-02]*

**Section 47. Lapse of appropriations.**

Every appropriation, except an appropriation for a capital expenditure, shall lapse at the close of the fiscal year to the extent that it has not been expended or encumbered. An appropriation for a capital expenditure shall continue in force until expended, revised, or repealed.

*[Section 47 amended by Charter Amendment 8, Election 3-17-20]*

**Section 48. Administration of the budget.**

The City Council shall provide, by ordinance, the procedures for administering the budget.

**Section 49. Overspending of appropriations prohibited.**

No payment against any allotment or appropriation shall be made unless the City Manager certifies that such funds are available to cover the obligation when it becomes due and payable. Except where prohibited by law, nothing in this charter shall be construed to prevent the making or authorizing of payments or making of contracts for capital improvements to be financed wholly or partly by the issuance of bonds or to prevent the making of any contract or lease providing for payments beyond the end of the fiscal year, but only if such action is made or approved by ordinance.

**Section 50. Reserved.**

*[Section 50 amended by Charter Amendment 9, Election 3-17-20]*

**Section 51. City Council action on capital program.**

The City Council shall publish in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the City a summary of the capital program and a notice of not less than two public hearings on the capital program. The City Council, by resolution, shall adopt the capital program with or without amendments after the public hearings and on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August of the then current fiscal year.

**Section 52. Public records.**

Copies of the budget, capital program, and appropriation and revenue ordinances shall be public records and shall be made available to the public at suitable and published places in the City, and shall be available for purchase at a reasonable price.

### **Section 53. Council Districts; redistricting.**

- (a) There will be six City Council Districts. The districts shall be as roughly equal in permanent population as is practical (along precinct lines) according to the population estimates. Where practical no City block shall be divided in the formation of districts.
- (b) The Districts' geographical boundaries are:

#### **District 1:**

Beginning at a Point ("Point of Beginning of District 1") that Is the intersection of the section lines of Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12 of Township 47 South, Range 24 East In Lee County, Florida, also being a point on the northern boundary of the city limits of the City of Bonita Springs, Florida, ("City"), then proceeding northwesterly, westerly, southwesterly and southeasterly along said boundary of the city, said boundary being a meandering line 500 feet westerly of the mean high waterline along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico, to an intersection with the extended centerline of the mouth of Big Hickory Pass in the Gulf of Mexico, then proceeding southeasterly along the meandering centerline of Big Hickory Pass and then Broadway Channel easterly to an intersection with the westerly shores of Estero Bay, then proceeding on a line northeasterly across Estero Bay to an intersection with the centerline of the mouth of Spring Creek at Estero Bay, then proceeding easterly along the meandering centerline of Spring Creek to an intersection with the centerline of South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) to an intersection with the centerline of Old U.S. 41 Road, then proceeding easterly and southeasterly along the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road to an intersection with the centerline of Strike Lane, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Strike Lane to an intersection with the centerline of Tuck Drive, then proceeding southerly along the centerline of said Tuck Drive To an intersection with the centerline of Moriah Lane, then proceeding southeasterly along the centerline of said Moriah Lane to an intersection with the centerline of Stillwell Parkway, then proceeding northerly along the centerline of Stillwell Parkway to an intersection with the centerline of said Strike Lane, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Strike Lane to an intersection with the centerline of Imperial Parkway, then proceeding, southerly, southeasterly, southwesterly and southerly along the centerline of said Imperial Parkway to an intersection with the centerline of East Terry Street, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said East Terry Street to an intersection with the centerline of I-75 (S.R. 93) right-of-way, then proceeding northerly and northwesterly along the centerline of said I-75 (S.R. 93) right-of-way to an intersection with the south line of Section 24, Township 47 South, Range 25 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding easterly along the south line of said Section 24 and proceeding easterly along the south lines of Sections 19 And 20, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida and the boundary of the city to an intersection with the northerly prolongation of the west line of the east one-half of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding south along the west line of said east one-half of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of said Section 29 to an intersection with the south line of the east one half of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of said Section 29, then proceeding easterly along the south line of said east one-half of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of the northeast one-quarter of said Section 29 to an intersection with the east line of said Section 29, then proceeding northerly along the east line of said Section 29 to an intersection with the east line of said Section 20 then northerly along the easterly line of said Section 20 and the east line of Section 17, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida to an intersection with the north line of said Section 17, then proceeding westerly along the north line of said Section 17 and Section 18 to an intersection with the north line of Section 13, Township 47 South, Range 25 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding westerly along the north line of said Section 13 and Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 And

18 to an intersection with the east line of Section 12, Township 47 South, Range 24 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding northerly along the east line of said Section 12 to an intersection with the north line of said Section 12, then proceeding westerly along the north line of said Section 12 to the point of beginning of District 1.

**District 2:**

Beginning at a point ("Point of Beginning of District 2") that is the intersection of the sections line of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26, of Township 47 South, Range 25 East in Lee County, Florida, then proceeding easterly along the southerly line of said Section 24 to an intersection with the centerline of Imperial Parkway, then proceeding southwestly, southeasterly and southerly along said centerline of said Imperial Parkway to an intersection with the centerline of East Terry Street, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said East Terry Street to an intersection with the centerline of Kent Road, then proceeding southerly along the centerline of said Kent Road to an intersection with the north branch of the Imperial River, then proceeding westerly along the meandering centerline of said Imperial River to an intersection with the centerline of said Imperial Parkway, then proceeding southerly along the centerline of said Imperial Parkway to an intersection with the centerline of Dean Street; then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said Dean Street to an intersection with the centerline of Lime Street, then proceeding south along the centerline of said Lime Street to an intersection with the centerline of Bonita Beach Road, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road to an intersection with the centerline of Tennessee Creek, Then proceeding northwesterly and westerly along the meandering centerline of said Tennessee Creek to an intersection with the centerline of Old U.S. 41 Road, then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road to an intersection with the centerline of said Dean Street, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Dean Street to an intersection with the centerline of Horne Avenue, then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said Horne Avenue to an intersection with the centerline of said Imperial River, then proceeding westerly along the meandering centerline of said Imperial River to an intersection with the centerline of Old U.S. 41 Road, then proceeding northerly and northwesterly along the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road to an intersection with the southerly line of said Section 23, then proceeding easterly along the southerly line of said Section 23 to the Point of Beginning of District 2.

**District 3:**

Beginning at a point ("Point of Beginning of District 3") that is the intersection of the centerline of Woods Edge Parkway and the centerline of Vanderbilt Drive, then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said Vanderbilt Beach Road to an intersection with the centerline of Bonita Beach Road, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road and its westerly prolongation to an intersection with a meandering line 500 feet westward of the mean high waterline along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico, then proceeding northwesterly along the meandering line to an intersection with the centerline of the mouth of Big Hickory Pass, then proceeding easterly, southeasterly and easterly along the meandering centerline of said Big Hickory Pass and then Broadway Channel easterly to an intersection with the westerly shore of Estero Bay, then proceeding southerly through South Estero Bay to the easterly side of Bay Hickory Islands and its associated islands to a point on the centerline and extended centerline of the mouth of the Imperial River in Fish Trap Bay, then proceeding easterly along the meandering centerline of said Imperial River to an intersection with the centerline of South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), then proceeding southerly along the centerline of said South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) to an intersection with the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road to an intersection with the centerline of Old U.S. 41 Road then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road to an intersection with Tennessee Creek; then proceeding easterly and southeasterly along the meandering centerline of said Tennessee Creek to an intersection with the

centerline of said Bonita Beach Road, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road to an intersection with the centerline of Lime Street, then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said Lime Street to an intersection with the centerline of Dean Street, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Dean Street to an intersection with the centerline of Imperial Parkway, then proceeding southerly along the centerline of Imperial Parkway to an intersection with the southern boundary of the city limits, then proceeding westerly along the southern boundary of the city limits to the Point of Beginning of District 3.

#### **District 4:**

Beginning at a point ("Point of Beginning of District 4") that is the intersection of the section lines of Sections 23, 24, 25 and 26 of Township 47 South, Range 25 East in Lee County, Florida, then proceeding easterly along the southerly line of said Section 24 to an intersection with the centerline of Imperial Parkway, then proceeding northeasterly and northerly along the centerline of said Imperial Parkway to an intersection with the centerline of Strike Lane, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said Strike Lane to an intersection with the centerline of Stillwell Parkway, then proceeding south along the centerline of said Stillwell Parkway to an intersection with the centerline of Moriah Lane, then proceeding northwesterly along the centerline of said Moriah Lane to an intersection with the centerline of Tuck Drive, then proceeding north along the centerline of said Tuck Drive to an intersection with the centerline of said Strike Lane, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said Strike Lane to an intersection with the centerline of Old U.S. 41 Road, then proceeding northwesterly and westerly along the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road to an intersection with South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), then proceeding south along the centerline of said South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) to an intersection with the centerline of Spring Creek, then proceeding westerly, northwesterly and westerly along the meandering centerline of said Spring Creek to the mouth of Spring Creek at eastern shore of Estero Bay, then proceeding southerly, westerly and southerly along the eastern shore of Estero Bay and Fish Trap Bay to the centerline of the mouth of the Imperial River at Fish Trap Bay, then proceeding easterly along the meandering centerline of said Imperial River to an intersection with the centerline of said South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), then proceeding north along the centerline of said South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) to an intersection with the centerline of West Terry Street, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said West Terry Street to an intersection with the centerline of a Florida Power and Light electrical transmission power line right-of-way, then proceeding northerly and northwesterly along the centerline of said Florida Power and Light Right-Of-Way to an intersection with the westerly prolongation of the northerly boundary line of the Imperial Harbor Subdivision, then proceeding easterly, northeasterly and southeasterly along said northerly boundary of said Imperial Harbor Subdivision to an intersection with the centerline of Imperial Harbor Boulevard, then proceeding northeasterly along the centerline of said Imperial Harbor Boulevard to an intersection with the southerly line of Section 23, Township 47 South, Range 25 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding easterly along the southerly line of said Section 23 to the point of Beginning of District 4.

#### **District 5:**

Beginning at a point ("Point of Beginning of District 5") that is the intersection of the centerline of Bonita Beach Road and the centerline of South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41), then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said South Tamiami Trail (U.S. 41) to an intersection with the centerline of West Terry Street, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said west terry street to an intersection with the centerline of a Florida Power and Light electrical transmission power line right-of-way, then proceeding northerly and northwesterly along the centerline of said Florida Power & Light right-of-way to an intersection with the westerly prolongation of the northerly boundary line of Imperial Harbor Subdivision, then proceed easterly, northeasterly and southeasterly along said northerly boundary of said Imperial

Harbor Subdivision to an intersection with the centerline of Imperial Harbor Boulevard; then proceeding northeasterly along the centerline of said Imperial Harbor Boulevard to an intersection with the centerline of Old U.S. 41 Road, then proceeding southeasterly and southerly along the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road to an intersection with the centerline of the Imperial River, then proceeding easterly along the meandering centerline of said Imperial River to an intersection with the centerline of Horne Avenue, then proceeding southerly along the centerline of said Horne Avenue to an intersection with the centerline of Dean Street, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said Dean Street to an intersection with the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road, then proceeding southerly along the centerline of said Old U.S. 41 Road to an intersection with said Bonita Beach Road, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road to the Point of Beginning of District 5.

**District 6:**

Beginning at a point ("Point of Beginning of District 6") that is the southeast corner of Section 1, Township 48 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding westerly along the south line of said Section 1 and Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 to an intersection with the south line of Section 1, Township 48 South, Range 25 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding westerly along the south line of said Section 1 to an intersection with the centerline of Imperial Parkway, then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said Imperial Parkway to an intersection with the centerline of the Imperial River then proceeding easterly along the meandering centerline of the Imperial River to an intersection with the southerly prolongation of the centerline of Kent Road, then proceeding northerly along the centerline of said Kent Road to an intersection with the centerline of East Terry Street, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said East Terry Street to an intersection with the centerline of I-75 (S.R. 93), then proceeding northerly and northwesterly to an intersection with the south line of Section 24, Township 47 South, Range 25 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding easterly along the south line of said Section 24 to an intersection with the south line of Section 19, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding easterly along the south line of said Section 19 and Section 20 to an intersection with the northerly prolongation of the east line of the west half of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of Section 29, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding southerly along the east line of the west half of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter to an intersection with the south line of said west half of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter, then proceeding westerly along the south line of the west half of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter to an intersection with the west line of the north half of the west half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter, then proceeding southerly along the west line of said north half of the west half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter to an intersection with the south line of the north half of the west half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter, then proceeding easterly along the south line of the north half of the west half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter to an intersection with the west line of the east one half of the southwest one quarter of the northwest one quarter of the northwest one quarter, then proceeding southerly along the west line of said fraction to an intersection with the south line of said fraction then proceeding easterly along the south line of said fraction to an intersection with the east line of said fraction, then proceeding northerly along the east line of said fraction to an intersection with the north line of the west half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter, then proceeding easterly along the north line of said fraction to an intersection with the north line of the east half of the southeast quarter of the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter, then proceeding easterly along the north line of said fraction to an intersection with the north line of the west one half of the southwest one quarter of the northeast one quarter of the northeast one quarter, then proceeding easterly along the north line of said fraction to an intersection with the east line of said fraction, then proceeding southerly along the east line of said fraction to an intersection with the south line of said fraction, then





line of said fraction to an intersection with the east line of the west half of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter, then proceeding southerly along the east line of said fraction to an intersection with the centerline of East Terry Street, then proceeding westerly along the centerline of said East Terry Street to an intersection with the centerline of Bonita Grand Drive, then proceeding southerly along the center line of said Bonita Grand Drive to an intersection with the westerly prolongation of the north line of the west half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of Section 32, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding along the westerly prolongation and the north line of said fraction to an intersection with the west line of the east half of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of said Section 32, then proceeding northerly along the west line of said fraction to an intersection with the north line of said fraction, then proceeding easterly along the north line of said fraction to an intersection with the east line of said fraction, then proceeding southerly along the east line of said fraction to an intersection with the east line of the east half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of said Section 32, then proceeding southerly along the east line of said fraction to an intersection with the south line of said fraction, then proceeding westerly along the south line of said fraction to an intersection with the south line of the west half of the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of said section 32, then proceeding westerly along the south line of said fraction and its westerly prolongation to an intersection with the centerline of Bonita Grande Drive, then proceeding southerly along the centerline of said Bonita Grande Drive to an intersection with centerline Bonita Beach Road southeast, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road southeast to an intersection with the southerly prolongation of the west line of Parcel 11 as shown in Exhibit "A" of the City of Bonita Springs, Florida Ordinance No. 08-15, Highgate Annexation, a public record available from the City Clerk, then proceeding northerly along the southerly prolongation and westerly line of said Parcel 11 to an intersection with the south line of Parcel 8, then proceeding westerly along the south line of said Parcel 8 And the south lines of Parcels 8 And 9 to an intersection with the west line of said Parcel 9, then proceeding northerly along the west line of said Parcel 9 to an intersection with the south line of Parcel 6, then proceeding westerly along the south line of said Parcel 6 to an intersection with the east line of Parcel 13, then proceeding southerly along the east line of said Parcel 13 to an intersection with the south line of said Parcel 13, then proceeding westerly along the south line of said Parcel 13 and Parcel 14 to an intersection with the west line of said Parcel 14, then proceeding northerly along the west line of said Parcel 14 to an intersection with the north line of said Parcel 14, then proceeding easterly along the north line of said Parcel 14 to an intersection with the west line of Parcel 7, then proceeding northerly along the west line of said Parcel 7 to an intersection with the north line of said Parcel 7, then proceeding easterly along the north line of said Parcel 7 and Parcels 4, 5 and 1, 2 to an intersection with the east line of said Parcel 2, then proceeding southerly along the east line of said Parcel 2 to an intersection with the north line of said Parcel 11, then easterly along the north line of said Parcel 11 to an intersection with the east line of said Parcel 11, then southerly along the east line of said Parcel 11 and its southerly prolongation to an intersection with the centerline of Bonita Beach Road southeast, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road southeast to an intersection with the southerly prolongation of the west line of the west half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of Section 33, Township 47 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida, then proceeding northerly along the southerly prolongation and the west line of said fraction to an intersection with the north line of said fraction, then proceeding easterly along the north line of said fraction to an intersection with the east line of said fraction, then proceeding southerly along the east line of said fraction and its southerly prolongation to an intersection with the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road southeast, then proceeding easterly along the centerline of said Bonita Beach Road and the northerly lines of Sections 3, 2 and 1, Township 48 South, Range 26 East, Lee County, Florida, to an intersection with the east line of said Section 1, then proceeding southerly along the easterly line of said Section 1 to the point of beginning of District 6.

Note: It is intended that the foregoing Districts shall be identical to those districts depicted on that certain map titled “City of Bonita Springs – District Boundaries approved by the City Council of Bonita Springs on or about March 7, 2012 (“Map”). In the event of any error, omission, inconsistency, or discrepancy between the descriptions of the Districts above and those depicted on the Map, the contents of the Map shall govern.

- (c) In the year 2001, and in the odd-numbered years after each decennial census thereafter, and at any time when required by law, the City Council may redivide the City into six districts as roughly equal in permanent population (along precinct lines) as practical.

*[Legal Descriptions Revised 02-17, Adopted 12-18-02; Revised 12-08, Adopted August 1, 2012]*

#### **Section 54. Initiative and referendum.**

The powers of initiative and referendum are hereby reserved to the qualified registered voters of the City. The provisions of the election laws of the state, as they currently exist or may hereafter be amended or superseded, shall govern the exercise of the powers of initiative and referendum under this charter.

#### **Section 55. Recall.**

The qualified voters of the City shall have the power to remove from office any elected official for unethical or illegal conduct or actions resulting in the endangerment of the public health and safety, malfeasance of office, or dereliction of duties. A recall election shall be held as provided for by the Florida Election Code.

*[Amended by Charter Amendment 14, Election 3-12-02]*

#### **Section 56. Code of ethics.**

It is essential to the proper conduct and operation of the City that the officers and employees of the City be independent and impartial and for their office not to be used for private gain other than the remuneration provided by law or by ordinances. It is declared to be the policy of the City that its officers and employees are agents of the people and hold their position for the benefit of the public. Therefore, all City officers, employees, and the City Attorney shall adhere to the Standards of Conduct as set forth under Part III, Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, as amended from time-to-time.

#### **Section 57. Amendments to City charter.**

This Charter may be amended in accordance with the provisions for charter amendments as specified in the Municipal Home Rule Powers Act, Chapter 166, Florida Statutes, as the same may be amended from time-to-time, or its successor, or as may otherwise be provided by general law. City Council shall establish a Charter Review Committee, appointed by City Council, to meet at least every ten years after dissolution of the previous Charter Review Committee to consider and make recommendations to City Council relative to the City Charter. The City Council may, by ordinance, or the qualified registered voters of the City may, by petition signed by 10 percent of the electors registered to vote in the last regular City general election, submit to the electors of the City a proposed amendment to any part or all of this Charter. The form, content, and certification of any petition to amend shall be established by ordinance.

*[Editor’s Note: Bonita Springs Ordinance No. 03-16, adopted August 20, 2003, establishes form, content and certification of petition]*

*[Amended by Charter Amendment 10, Election 1-26-10]*

**Section 58. Election.**

The City Council shall place the proposed amendment contained in the ordinance or petition to a vote of the electors of the City at the next City election or at a special election called for such purpose.

**Section 59. Adoption of amendment.**

If a majority of the registered voters of the City vote in favor of a proposed charter amendment, the amendment shall become effective at the time fixed in the amendment or, if no time is therein fixed, 30 days after its adoption by the voters.

**Section 60. Reserved.**

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

**Section 61. Reserved.**

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

**Section 62. Officers and employees.**

Nothing in this charter except as otherwise specifically provided shall affect or impair the rights or privileges of persons who are City officers or employees. However, no officer of the City shall hold, or be a candidate for, elective public office in the city while in its employment or use the authority of his or her position to secure support for, or oppose, any candidate in an election or affect the results thereof. Neither shall the mayor or any member of the city council use any promise of reward or threat of loss to encourage or coerce any officer or employee to support or contribute to any political issue, candidate, or party in any election.

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

*[Section 62 amended by Charter Amendment 10, Election 3-17-20]*

**Section 63. Reserved.**

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

**Section 64. Pending matters.**

All rights, claims, actions, orders, contracts, and administrative proceedings affecting the area incorporated into the City shall continue with the County and/or state agency having jurisdiction over such matter, except as modified, pursuant to the provisions of this charter.

**Section 65. State and County laws.**

In general, all County ordinances, resolutions, orders, and regulations which are in force when this charter becomes effective are repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with this charter or with ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant thereto. To the extent that the Constitution and laws of the State of Florida permit, all laws relating to or affecting the City of Bonita Springs or its agencies, officers, or employees which are in force when this charter becomes effective are superseded to the extent that they are inconsistent or interfere with the effective operation of this charter or of ordinances or resolutions adopted pursuant thereto.

**Section 66. Severability.**

If any provision of this charter is held invalid, the other provisions of the charter shall not be affected thereby. If the application of the charter or any of its provisions to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the application of the charter and its provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

**Section 67. Creation and establishment of the City of Bonita Springs.**

For the purpose of compliance with Section 200.066, Florida Statutes, relating to assessment and collection of ad valorem taxes, the City of Bonita Springs is hereby created and established effective December 31, 1999.

**Section 68. Early assumption of duties by City Council.**

The initial City Council shall have the authority and power to enter into contracts, arrange for the hiring of interim legal counsel, begin recruiting applicants for the position of City Manager, provide for necessary City offices and facilities, and do such other things as it deems necessary and appropriate for the City to become operational on December 31, 2000.

**Section 69. Reserved.**

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

**Section 70. Transitional ordinances and resolutions.**

The Council shall adopt ordinances and resolutions required to effect the transition. Ordinances adopted within 90 days after the first Council meeting may be passed as emergency ordinances as provided in this charter except the transitional ordinances shall be effective for no longer than 90 days after adoption and; thereafter, may be readopted, renewed, or otherwise continued only in the manner normally prescribed for ordinances.

**Section 71. Transitional comprehensive plan.**

Until such time as the City adopts a comprehensive plan, the Lee County Comprehensive Plan, as the same exists on the day the City commences corporate existence, shall remain in effect as the City's transitional comprehensive plan. However, all planning functions, duties, and authority shall thereafter be vested in the Council, which shall be deemed the local planning agency until the Council establishes a separate local planning agency.

**Section 72. Transitional land development regulations.**

To implement the transitional comprehensive plan when adopted, the City shall, in accordance with the procedures required by the laws of the State of Florida, adopt ordinances providing for land development regulations within the corporate limits. Until the City adopts the ordinances:

- (a) The comprehensive land use plan and land development regulations of Lee County, as the same exists on the date the City commences corporate existence, shall remain in effect as the City's transitional land development regulations and comprehensive land use plan.

- (b) All powers and duties of the Lee County Department of Community Development, Lee County Hearing Examiner, and County Commission of Lee County, as set forth in these transitional land development regulations, shall be vested in the City Council until such time as the City Council delegates all, or a portion thereof, to another agency, department, or entity.
- (c) Subsequent to the adoption of a local comprehensive plan, subject to general law, the Council is fully empowered to amend, supersede, enforce, or repeal the transitional land development regulations, or any portion thereof, by ordinance.
- (d) Subsequent to the commencement of the City's corporate existence, no amendment of the comprehensive plan or land development regulations enacted by the Lee County Commission shall be deemed an amendment of the City's transitional comprehensive plan or land development regulations or otherwise take effect within the City's municipal boundaries.

**Section 73. State-Shared Revenues.**

The City of Bonita Springs shall be entitled to participate in all revenue sharing programs of the State of Florida. Pursuant to Chapter 99-428, Laws of Florida, and for purposes of meeting the provisions of s.218.23(1), Florida Statutes, relating to ad valorem taxation, the millage levied by special districts may be used for an indefinite period of time.

*[Section 73 amended by Charter Amendment 11, Election 3-17-20]*

**Section 74. Reserved.**

*[Revised by Ordinance No. 03-03, adopted 3-5-03]*

**Section 75. Contractual Services and facilities.**

Contractual services for fire, police, emergency management, public works, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, building inspection, development review, animal control, and solid waste collection may be supplied by a contract between the City and Lee County, special districts, municipalities, or private enterprise until such time as the City Council establishes such independent services. Facilities for housing the newly formed municipal operations may be rented or leased until the City is in the position to obtain its own facilities.

**Section 76. Elimination of transition elements from the charter.**

Upon completion of the transition phase as contained herein, those sections of the charter relating to transition may be eliminated from the charter by City Council by adoption of a regular ordinance.

*[Amended by Charter Amendment 12, Election 3-12-02]*

**Section 77. Independent special districts.**

It is recognized that certain services within the municipal boundaries are provided by independent special districts whose boundaries lie wholly within the municipal boundaries of Bonita Springs and are created by special acts of the Florida Legislature. The municipality is empowered to merge the functions of said districts with those of the municipality only upon dissolution of the special districts, or upon affirmative vote of a majority of the City Council and an affirmative vote of the majority of the Council or Board governing the district after meeting all requirements for merger or dissolution in the district's enabling

legislation and Chapter 189, Florida Statutes. It is recognized that certain planning and interlocal agreements may be necessary between the City and such districts and the City Council shall endeavor to maximize the benefits of the districts to the fullest extent possible. In the event the City Council desires to supplement or duplicate services determined to be inadequate, the Council is fully empowered to do so.

## **Article II**

Severability as to this act. – If any provision of this act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared severable.

## **Article III**

This act shall take effect upon approval by a majority vote of those qualified electors residing within the proposed corporate limits of the proposed City of Bonita Springs as described in Section 6 voting in a referendum election to be called by the Lee County Commission to be held November 2, 1999, in accordance with the provisions of law relating to elections currently in force, except that this section shall take effect upon becoming a law.