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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

1  
 2 An act relating to the Town of Fort White, Columbia  
 3 County; amending ch. 57-1334, Laws of Florida;  
 4 deleting boundaries; revising general powers to borrow  
 5 money; revising the election and terms of members of  
 6 the Town Council; providing council districts;  
 7 providing for the presiding officer of the council;  
 8 providing for the salaries of the Mayor and members of  
 9 the Town Council, powers of the town, and vacancies in  
 10 Town Council; removing provisions relating to special  
 11 meetings, ordinances and resolutions, and publication  
 12 of ordinances and resolutions; removing provisions  
 13 relating to the municipal court; providing that the  
 14 Columbia County court system will handle all matters  
 15 requiring court hearings or appearances; revising  
 16 provisions relating to the police department and the  
 17 fire department; providing and revising requirements  
 18 for the Town Clerk; removing provisions relating to  
 19 the town auditor, town tax assessor, town treasurer,  
 20 tax administration, and canvass of election returns;  
 21 revising requirements for the election of candidates  
 22 to the office of Town Council; removing a provision  
 23 requiring elections to be conducted in a specified  
 24 manner; revising the terms of office of  
 25 councilmembers; providing an effective date.

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

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

Section 1. Section 5, subsection (25) of section 7, sections 8, 10, and 11, subsections (8), (9), and (13) of section 12, sections 13, 15, 16, 20, and 22 through 82 of chapter 57-1334, Laws of Florida, are amended to read:

Section 5. BOUNDARIES. The corporate limits of the Town of Fort White, a municipal corporation in Columbia County, Florida, shall extend to and include all certain territories comprehending and comprising within Section 8(4)(a) ~~the following described limits, to-wit: Commence at the center of the intersection of Florida State Highway No. 47 and United States Highway 27 and run due South three-quarters of a mile, thence run due North a mile and a half, thence run due West a mile and a half, thence run due South a mile and a half, thence run due East three-quarters of a mile to the point of beginning.~~

Section 7. GENERAL POWERS. The town shall have the powers, functions and immunities granted to municipal corporations by the constitution and general laws of this state, as now or hereinafter existing, together with the implied powers necessary to carry into execution all the powers granted. The enumeration of particular powers by this charter shall not be deemed to be exclusive, and in addition to the powers enumerated herein or implied hereby, or appropriate to the exercise of such powers,



ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

76 councilmembers shall be in the manner provided for in this  
 77 charter and under general law ~~except as otherwise provided for~~  
 78 ~~in this charter, and shall be elected in the manner provided for~~  
 79 ~~in this charter.~~

80 (3) The term of office of all members of the Town Council  
 81 shall commence at the beginning of the next regular or special  
 82 meeting after the election results are final in accordance with  
 83 this charter ~~8:00 O'clock P. M. on the fourth Tuesday of August~~  
 84 ~~of the year in which such councilmen are elected.~~

85 (4) (a) The districts from which members of the Town  
 86 Council of the Town of Fort White shall be elected are defined  
 87 as follows:

88  
 89 District 1. Start on the town's northern boundary at  
 90 SW State Road 47 and go south on State Road 47 to US  
 91 Highway 27 to SW County Road 18, thence east on County  
 92 Road 18 to the Town's boundary, including all property  
 93 in said northeast quadrant of the Town of Fort White.

94  
 95 District 2. Start on the town's eastern boundary at SW  
 96 County Road 18, thence west to SW US Highway 27,  
 97 thence go south on SW US Highway 27 to the town's  
 98 southern boundary, including all of the property in  
 99 said southeast quadrant of the Town of Fort White.

100

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

101 District 3. Start on the town's western boundary as SW  
 102 Wilson Springs Road and thence go east on Wilson  
 103 Springs Road to SW Skye Avenue thence go north on SW  
 104 Skye Avenue to SW Jordan Street, thence go east on SW  
 105 Jordan Street to SW Highway 237 thence go east and  
 106 southeast on SW US Highway 27 to the town's southern  
 107 boundary, including all of the property in said  
 108 southwest quadrant of the Town of Fort White.

109  
 110 District 4. Start on the Town's northern boundary at  
 111 State Road 47 and thence go south on State Road 47 to  
 112 US Highway 27, thence go west on US Highway 27 to SW  
 113 Jordan Street, thence go west on SW Jordan Street to  
 114 SW Skye Avenue, thence to south on SW Skye Avenue to  
 115 SW Wilson Springs Road, thence go west on SW Wilson  
 116 Springs Road to the Town's western boundary, including  
 117 all of the property in said northwest quadrant of the  
 118 Town of Fort White.

119  
 120 (b) The districts provided in subparagraph (a) are  
 121 intended to be a division of the Town of Fort White into four  
 122 districts which are to have equal numbers of citizens and equal  
 123 numbers of voters. It is the further intent of this charter that  
 124 the boundaries of said districts shall be changed when necessary  
 125 to provide an approximate numerical equalization of citizens and

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

126 voters in each of said districts. It is contemplated that the  
 127 said changes will be made only when differences are substantial  
 128 and it is not contemplated that said districts will always have,  
 129 or will ever have, the same number of citizens and voters  
 130 without any variation. Said changes shall be made in the same  
 131 manner as other amendments to this charter.

132 Section 10. SALARY. The Town Council shall set the salaries  
 133 of the Mayor and councilmembers by ordinance enacted pursuant to  
 134 general law ~~The Mayor may receive a salary to be fixed by the~~  
 135 ~~Town Council provided, however, the salary of the Mayor shall~~  
 136 ~~not exceed Twenty (\$20.00) Dollars per month.~~

137 Section 11. PRESIDING OFFICER, MAYOR, TOWN COUNCIL.

138 (1) ~~The Mayor shall preside at all meetings of the Town~~  
 139 ~~Council and shall~~ be recognized as head of the town government  
 140 for all ceremonial purposes, and by the governor for ~~of~~ purposes  
 141 of military law, shall, when directed to do so by the Town  
 142 Council, execute all instruments to which the town is a party,  
 143 and shall have all other administrative duties provided for in  
 144 this charter or provided for by ordinance of the Town Council.

145 (2) The Town Council, immediately after the induction of  
 146 members elect to the Town Council, shall elect one of their  
 147 members as the presiding officer and chairperson of the Town  
 148 Council and one member as vice chairperson. At all meetings of  
 149 the Town Council the chairperson or, in his or her absence, the  
 150 vice chairperson, shall preside.

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

151 Section 12. POWERS. Except as otherwise provided in this  
 152 charter, all powers of the town, and the determination of all  
 153 matters of policy shall be vested in the Town Council. Without  
 154 limitation of the foregoing, the Town Council shall have power  
 155 to:

156 (8) Remit, upon the recommendation of a county judge ~~the~~  
 157 ~~municipal judge~~, fines or other penalties imposed by the  
 158 municipal court;

159 (9) Pass ordinances and laws for the preservation of the  
 160 public peace and order, and impose penalties for the violation  
 161 thereof; ~~provided, that the maximum penalty to be imposed shall~~  
 162 ~~be a fine of not more than five hundred dollars and imprisonment~~  
 163 ~~for a period of time not longer than sixty days;~~

164 (13) Appoint, remove and fix the compensation of the Town  
 165 Attorney, ~~municipal judge, town prosecutor, town auditor, town~~  
 166 ~~clerk, town tax assessor,~~ and all other town employees;

167 Section 13. VACANCIES IN TOWN COUNCIL. In the event of a  
 168 ~~Any~~ vacancy in the office of the Mayor or a member of the Town  
 169 Council, the remaining members of the Town Council shall appoint  
 170 a qualified citizen to fill the balance of the term of the  
 171 vacancy of either the Mayor or the Town Council seat. Such  
 172 appointment shall be made within 60 days of the vacancy unless  
 173 such time period is extended by the Town Council. In the event  
 174 that there is not a quorum to appoint a replacement for a  
 175 vacancy, within a reasonable time, the seat of Mayor or member

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

176 ~~of the Town Council be filled until the next regular municipal~~  
 177 ~~election by vote of the; provided, that if such vacancy is not~~  
 178 ~~filled within ten (10) days after it shall have occurred, it~~  
 179 shall be filled by appointment of the Governor. Any such  
 180 appointments shall continue until the end of the unexpired term  
 181 of such seat and until a successor is elected and sworn into  
 182 office.

183 Section 15. INDUCTION OF TOWN COUNCIL INTO OFFICE; MEETING  
 184 OF TOWN COUNCIL. The first meeting of each newly elected Town  
 185 Council, for induction into office, shall be held at 6:00 ~~8:00~~  
 186 O'clock P. M., on the fourth Monday in the month ~~day~~ following  
 187 its election, after which the Town Council shall meet regularly  
 188 at such times as may be prescribed by its rules, ~~but not less~~  
 189 ~~frequently than once each month.~~ All meetings of the Town  
 190 Council shall be open to the public.

191 Section 16. SPECIAL MEETINGS: HOW CALLED. The Mayor, or any  
 192 two members of the Town Council may call special meetings of the  
 193 Town Council, upon reasonable ~~at least six (6) hours written~~  
 194 ~~notice to each member, served personally or left at his usual~~  
 195 ~~place of residence or place of business.~~ All meetings of the  
 196 Town Council and of the committee thereof shall be public, and  
 197 any citizens shall have access to the minutes and records  
 198 thereof at all reasonable times.

199 Section 20. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS. Every proposed  
 200 ordinance or resolution shall be introduced in written or



ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

201 printed form and shall not contain more than one subject, but  
 202 general appropriation ordinance may contain the various subjects  
 203 and accounts for which moneys are to be appropriated. The  
 204 enacting clause of all ordinances shall be "Be It Enacted by The  
 205 People of the Town of Fort White, Florida." No ordinance, unless  
 206 it shall be an emergency measure, shall be passed until it shall  
 207 have been read at two meetings, ~~not less than one week apart, or~~  
 208 ~~unless the requirement of such readings has been dispensed with~~  
 209 ~~by unanimous vote of the Town Council.~~

210 Section 22. AUTHENTICATING: PUBLICATION. Every ordinance or  
 211 resolution shall, upon its final passage be recorded in a book  
 212 kept for the purpose and shall be authenticated by the  
 213 signatures of the presiding officer and the clerk of the Town  
 214 Council. ~~Every ordinance of a general or permanent nature shall~~  
 215 ~~be published once within ten (10) days after its final passage~~  
 216 ~~in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of Fort White,~~  
 217 ~~Florida, or by posting said ordinance in three (3) separate~~  
 218 ~~public places for a period of ten (10) days after its final~~  
 219 ~~passage.~~

220 Section 23. APPOINTMENT; LEGAL ADVISOR TO TOWN; PREPARATION  
 221 AND APPROVAL OF LEGAL INSTRUMENTS; DEFEND AND PROSECUTE IN  
 222 BEHALF OF TOWN. The Town Council shall appoint a Town Attorney  
 223 who shall act as the legal advisor to, and attorney and  
 224 counselor for the municipality and all of its officers in  
 225 matters relating to their official duties. The Town Attorney ~~He~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

226 shall prepare all contracts, bonds and other instruments in  
 227 writing, in which the municipality is concerned, and shall  
 228 endorse on each his or her approval of the form and correctness  
 229 thereof. When required to do so, the Town Attorney ~~he~~ shall  
 230 prosecute and defend for and in behalf of the town, all  
 231 complaints, suits, and controversies in which the town is a  
 232 party. The Town Attorney ~~He~~ shall furnish the Town Council, the  
 233 head of any department or any officer, not included in any  
 234 department, his or her opinion on any question of law relating  
 235 to their respective powers and duties. For these services, the  
 236 Town Attorney ~~he~~ shall receive such compensation as the Town  
 237 Council may determine by record vote.

238 Section 24. TO PERFORM DUTIES REQUIRED BY TOWN COUNCIL,  
 239 STATE LAW AND CHARTER. In addition to the duties, specifically  
 240 imposed under the preceding section, the Town Attorney ~~he~~ shall  
 241 perform such other professional duties as may be required of him  
 242 or her by ordinance or resolution of the Town Council or as  
 243 prescribed, for Town Attorney under the general laws of the  
 244 State which are not inconsistent with the charter and with any  
 245 ordinance or resolution which may be passed by the Town Council.  
 246 The Town Attorney ~~He~~ shall receive such compensation as the Town  
 247 Council may determine by record vote.

248 Section 25. QUALIFICATIONS. The Town Attorney shall be a  
 249 lawyer with ~~lawyer of~~ at least five years of ~~years~~<sup>1</sup> experience,  
 250 admitted in and having authority to practice in all courts of

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

251 the State.

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253

ARTICLE IV

254

COURT MATTERS

255

~~MUNICIPAL COURT~~

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Section 26. ~~ESTABLISHMENT; APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL JUDGE;~~

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~~POWER OF MAYOR DURING ABSENCE OF JUDGE;~~ SESSIONS OF COURT. All

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matters requiring court hearings or appearances for any resident

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of the Town of Fort White will be handled by the Columbia County

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Clerk of Courts. ~~There shall be and there is hereby established~~

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~~in the Town of Fort White a municipal court to be known as the~~

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~~"Municipal Court of the Town of Fort White, Florida," for the~~

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~~trial of all offenders against the municipal ordinances. Such~~

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~~court shall be presided over by a municipal judge who shall be~~

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~~the Mayor. Sessions of the municipal court may be held daily~~

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~~except Sundays and holidays.~~

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~~Section 27. POWERS AND DUTIES, GENERALLY.~~ The municipal

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~~judge shall have power by his warrant to have brought before him~~

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~~any person or persons charged with violation of the town~~

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~~ordinances, and shall have exclusive original jurisdiction over~~

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~~all proceedings of a criminal nature for the violation of any~~

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~~ordinance of the town. In the proper exercise of the functions~~

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~~of the municipal court within its jurisdiction as herein~~

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~~defined, the municipal judge shall have power and is authorized~~

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~~to issue and cause to be served search warrants and any and all~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

276 ~~other writs and processes such as are issued and used by county~~  
 277 ~~judges and justices of peace in the State of Florida, and the~~  
 278 ~~police of the Town of Fort White are authorized and it is made~~  
 279 ~~their duty to execute and serve any and all such writs and~~  
 280 ~~processes issued out of the said municipal court by the~~  
 281 ~~municipal judge, and to make proper returns upon the same to~~  
 282 ~~such municipal court in the same manner as is required of~~  
 283 ~~constables, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and any other officer in~~  
 284 ~~the execution of similar papers. The municipal judge shall have~~  
 285 ~~power and authority to take bail for the appearance of an~~  
 286 ~~accused person, if such person fail to appear, to declare such~~  
 287 ~~bond or security entreated; to require the attendance of~~  
 288 ~~witnesses for the town and for the accused person, to administer~~  
 289 ~~oaths, take affidavits; and to inquire into the truth or falsity~~  
 290 ~~of all charges preferred; to decide on the guilt or innocence of~~  
 291 ~~the accused, and to fix and to impose penalties by sentences as~~  
 292 ~~are prescribed and provided for under the ordinances of the~~  
 293 ~~town, and to have all powers incidental and usual to the due~~  
 294 ~~enforcement of such town ordinances.~~

295 ~~Section 28. AUTHORITY TO PRESERVE ORDER; DISPOSITION OF~~  
 296 ~~MONEYS COLLECTED. The municipal court shall have authority to~~  
 297 ~~preserve order and decorum and shall be invested with the same~~  
 298 ~~powers to that end, by fine and imprisonment, as are possessed~~  
 299 ~~and authorized to be exercised by criminal courts of records~~  
 300 ~~within the State. All fines, penalties and fees collected in the~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

301 ~~municipal court and by the police of the town shall be part of~~  
 302 ~~the revenue of the town and shall be paid to the finance~~  
 303 ~~department on the date on which collected, and receipt taken~~  
 304 ~~thereof. The moneys so paid into the Town Treasury may be by~~  
 305 ~~ordinance of the Town Council, appropriated to any particular~~  
 306 ~~fund and shall thereafter be used in accordance with such~~  
 307 ~~ordinance.~~

308 ~~Section 29. REMISSION OF FINES AND PENALTIES. The municipal~~  
 309 ~~judge may, in his discretion, remit all, or part of any fines,~~  
 310 ~~costs or penalties imposed in said court and may suspend the~~  
 311 ~~enforcement of any sentence imposed in such court.~~

312 ~~Section 30. ENTRY ON DOCKET SUFFICIENT FOR TRIAL.~~  
 313 ~~Entry of the charge on the docket of the municipal court of the~~  
 314 ~~Town of Fort White shall be sufficient for the purpose of trying~~  
 315 ~~any person charged with an offense against the town ordinances.~~

316 ~~Section 31. POLICE DEPARTMENT. The police force of the~~  
 317 ~~Town of Fort White shall consist of a Chief of Police and as~~  
 318 ~~many subordinate officers, policemen and employees as the Town~~  
 319 ~~Council shall by ordinance determine. The Chief of Police shall~~  
 320 ~~have exclusive control of the stationing and transfer of all~~  
 321 ~~patrolmen and other officers and employees constituting the~~  
 322 ~~police force, subject to and under such rules and regulations as~~  
 323 ~~the Town Council may prescribe or as may be prescribed by the~~  
 324 ~~ordinances of the town. Any police officer of the Town of Fort~~  
 325 ~~White shall have and is hereby empowered with the full right and~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

326 ~~authority to make arrests beyond the corporate limits of said~~  
 327 ~~town for violation of Chapters 317, and 901.15, Florida Statutes~~  
 328 ~~Annotated, as amended where the violation occurs within the~~  
 329 ~~limits of said Town of Fort White and the violator is~~  
 330 ~~immediately pursued to a point outside the boundary limits of~~  
 331 ~~said town.~~

332 ~~Section 32. POLICE DEPARTMENT-POWERS AND DUTIES OF CHIEF OF~~  
 333 ~~POLICE. The Chief of Police shall attend all meetings of the~~  
 334 ~~Town Council and aid in the enforcement of orders under the~~  
 335 ~~direction of the presiding officer. He shall execute the~~  
 336 ~~commands of the Town Council and all processes issued by~~  
 337 ~~authority thereof which shall be issued to him by the Mayor. He~~  
 338 ~~shall attend in person or by deputy the municipal court during~~  
 339 ~~its sittings, execute the commands and processes of said court,~~  
 340 ~~aid in the enforcement of orders therein and perform such other~~  
 341 ~~duties appropriate to his office as may be imposed upon him by~~  
 342 ~~law, the ordinances of the town, consistent with this Act.~~

343 ~~Section 27. 33.~~ FIRE DEPARTMENT. The fire force of the town  
 344 shall be provided by Columbia County ~~fire warden and as many~~  
 345 ~~subordinate officers, firemen and employees as the Town Council~~  
 346 ~~shall by ordinance determine.~~ The Columbia County fire chief  
 347 shall have exclusive control of the stationing and transfer of  
 348 all firefighters ~~firemen~~ and other officers and employees of the  
 349 fire force subject to such rules and regulations as may be  
 350 prescribed by ordinance of the town; the fire chief ~~he~~ shall

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

351 have exclusive management and control of such officers and  
 352 employees as may be employed in the administration of the  
 353 affairs of the fire chief's ~~his~~ force. ~~In case of riot,~~  
 354 ~~conflagration of like emergency, the Mayor may appoint~~  
 355 ~~additional firemen for temporary service. The fire chief shall~~  
 356 ~~have the right to suspend any officer or employee of the fire~~  
 357 ~~force because of incompetency, neglect of duty, drunkenness,~~  
 358 ~~failure to obey orders given by proper authority or for any~~  
 359 ~~other just or reasonable cause, and he shall immediately report~~  
 360 ~~the fact of such suspension to the Town Council for final~~  
 361 ~~action.~~

362  
 363 ARTICLE VI

364 ~~TOWN AUDITOR, TOWN CLERK, TOWN TAX ASSESSOR~~  
 365 ~~AND TOWN TREASURER~~

366  
 367 Section ~~28.~~ 34. TOWN CLERK. The Town Council shall appoint  
 368 an officer of the town who shall have the title of Town Clerk.  
 369 The Town Clerk ~~He~~ shall ~~+~~ serve at the pleasure of the Town  
 370 Council and shall be under its direction and control. The Town  
 371 Clerk ~~He~~ shall receive a salary to be fixed by the Town Council.  
 372 The Town Clerk shall have the power and be required to perform  
 373 each of the following:

374 (1) Provide ~~He shall give~~ notice of the meetings of the  
 375 Town Council; ~~shall~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

376        (2) Keep the journal of the Town Council's ~~its~~  
 377        ~~proceedings; shall be custodian of the town's seal; shall~~  
 378        (3) Authenticate and maintain ~~by his signature and record~~  
 379        ~~in full a book kept for that purpose~~ all ordinances and  
 380        resolutions of the Town Council;  
 381        (4) Ensure that town elections are conducted in accordance  
 382        with Florida law;  
 383        (5) Exercise budgetary control over every department,  
 384        board, mission, and agency of the town;  
 385        (6) All duties and responsibilities conferred by this  
 386        charter; and  
 387        (7) Perform all other administrative duties of the town. ~~+~~  
 388        ~~shall perform the duties of registration officer and shall~~  
 389        ~~perform any other duties required by this charter. If a person~~  
 390        ~~qualified to fill the positions be available, the office of town~~  
 391        ~~clerk may, at the discretion of the Town Council, be combined~~  
 392        ~~with that of the town auditor, town tax assessor and town~~  
 393        ~~treasurer. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, or of~~  
 394        ~~this charter, the office of the town clerk shall never be~~  
 395        ~~combined with any office other than town auditor, town tax~~  
 396        ~~assessor, or town treasurer, or given any other duties except~~  
 397        ~~those specifically delegated in this charter to either the town~~  
 398        ~~auditor, town tax assessor or town treasurer.~~  
 399        ~~Section 35. TOWN AUDITOR. The Town Council shall appoint an~~  
 400        ~~officer of the town who shall have the title of town auditor. He~~



ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

401 ~~shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council and shall be~~  
 402 ~~under its direction and control. He shall receive a salary to be~~  
 403 ~~fixed by the Town Council. He shall have knowledge of accounting~~  
 404 ~~and shall have had experience in budgeting and financial~~  
 405 ~~control. If a person qualified to fill the positions be~~  
 406 ~~available, the office of the town auditor may, at the discretion~~  
 407 ~~of the Town Council, be combined with that of town clerk, town~~  
 408 ~~tax assessor and town treasurer. Notwithstanding any other~~  
 409 ~~provision of law, or of this charter, the office of town auditor~~  
 410 ~~shall never be combined with any office other than that of town~~  
 411 ~~clerk, town tax assessor, or town treasurer, or given any other~~  
 412 ~~duties except those specifically delegated in this charter to~~  
 413 ~~either the town clerk, town tax assessor or town treasurer. The~~  
 414 ~~town auditor shall have power and be required to:~~

415 ~~(1) Exercise financial budgetary control over every~~  
 416 ~~department, board, commission and agency of the town to insure~~  
 417 ~~that all moneys are legally expended, and the budget~~  
 418 ~~appropriations are not exceeded;~~

419 ~~(2) Prescribe the forms of accounting and the forms of~~  
 420 ~~receipts, vouchers, bills, claims or other forms to be used by~~  
 421 ~~all the offices, departments, boards, commissions, and agencies~~  
 422 ~~of the town government, in and about its fiscal affairs;~~

423 ~~(3) Audit all bids, invoices, payrolls and other evidences~~  
 424 ~~of claims, demands or charges against the town government;~~

425 ~~(4) Inspect and audit any accounts or records which may be~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

426 ~~maintained in any office, department or agency of the town~~  
 427 ~~government.~~

428 ~~Section 36. TOWN TAX ASSESSOR. The Town Council shall~~  
 429 ~~appoint an officer of the town who shall have the title of town~~  
 430 ~~tax assessor. He shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council~~  
 431 ~~and shall be under its direction and control. He shall receive a~~  
 432 ~~salary to be fixed by the Town Council. He shall prepare tax~~  
 433 ~~maps, assess all properties within the corporate limits of the~~  
 434 ~~town for taxation and shall perform all the usual duties of a~~  
 435 ~~tax assessor. If a person qualified to fill the positions be~~  
 436 ~~available, the office of the town tax assessor may, at the~~  
 437 ~~discretion of the Town Council, be combined with that of town~~  
 438 ~~clerk, town auditor and town treasurer. Notwithstanding any~~  
 439 ~~other provision of law, or of this charter, the office of town~~  
 440 ~~tax assessor shall never be combined with any office other than~~  
 441 ~~that of town clerk, town auditor, or town treasurer, or given~~  
 442 ~~any other duties except those specifically delegated in this~~  
 443 ~~charter to either the town clerk, the town auditor, or the town~~  
 444 ~~treasurer.~~

445 ~~Section 37. TOWN TREASURER. The Town Council shall appoint~~  
 446 ~~an officer of the town who shall have the title of town~~  
 447 ~~treasurer. He shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Council~~  
 448 ~~and shall be under its direction and control. He shall receive a~~  
 449 ~~salary to be fixed by the Town Council. He shall have knowledge~~  
 450 ~~of municipal accounting and taxation and shall have had~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

451 ~~experience in budgeting and financial control. If a person~~  
452 ~~qualified to fill the position be available, the office of the~~  
453 ~~town treasurer may, at the discretion of the Town Council, be~~  
454 ~~combined with that of the town auditor, town clerk, and town tax~~  
455 ~~assessor. The town treasurer shall provide a bond with surety~~  
456 ~~and in such amount as the Town Council may require. The town~~  
457 ~~treasurer shall have charge of the administration of the~~  
458 ~~financial affairs of the town under the supervision of the Town~~  
459 ~~Council.~~

460 ~~Section 38. PROPERTY SUBJECT TO TAX; METHOD OF ASSESSMENT.~~  
461 ~~All property within the town, not expressly exempted by law,~~  
462 ~~shall be subject to annual taxation at its true cash value. For~~  
463 ~~the purpose of assessment, the soil shall be known as "Land,"~~  
464 ~~and everything attached thereto shall be known as~~  
465 ~~"Improvements," and such "Improvements," when owned by the~~  
466 ~~tenant, may be assessed in his or her name, apart from the land.~~  
467 ~~Articles other than "Land" or "Improvements" shall be known as~~  
468 ~~"Personal Property." All property shall be assessed as of the~~  
469 ~~1st day of January of the fiscal year for which such assessment~~  
470 ~~is made, and the town tax assessor shall begin his work of~~  
471 ~~assessing real property on such date. On or before the 1st day~~  
472 ~~of May of each fiscal year, he shall present to the treasurer~~  
473 ~~and collector a true copy of the assessment roll of the property~~  
474 ~~taxable within the town, to be known as the assessor's~~  
475 ~~duplicate. The treasurer and collector shall make such copy of~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

476 ~~the assessment roll available for public inspection during the~~  
 477 ~~period from the 1st day of May to the 15th day of May.~~

478 ~~Section 39. ASSESSMENT OF PROPERTY OF PUBLIC UTILITY~~  
 479 ~~COMPANIES. Public utility companies shall be subjected to~~  
 480 ~~taxation on all real and personal property owned or operated by~~  
 481 ~~them within the limits of the municipal corporation, in the same~~  
 482 ~~manner and at the same rate of valuation as all other property.~~  
 483 ~~Franchises and privileges owned by public utility companies and~~  
 484 ~~other corporations, part of which is, and part of which is not,~~  
 485 ~~subject to taxation for the various purposes other than ordinary~~  
 486 ~~municipal purposes, shall be so assessed as to show the~~  
 487 ~~valuation or part of the whole valuation subject to taxation for~~  
 488 ~~each purpose. The town tax assessor shall specify what portion~~  
 489 ~~of the property assessed is used for right of way and depot~~  
 490 ~~purposes, by such description as will clearly define the~~  
 491 ~~property covered by that assessment, and their property, other~~  
 492 ~~than that so described, shall be separately assessed by~~  
 493 ~~sufficient description as is other property, each lot, part of~~  
 494 ~~lot, or tract being assessed separately, except that the town~~  
 495 ~~tax assessor may, at the request of the company or its agents,~~  
 496 ~~assess several pieces together.~~

497 ~~Section 40. CORRECTION OF ASSESSMENT. If the town tax~~  
 498 ~~assessor shall discover that any land in the town was omitted in~~  
 499 ~~the assessment roll of either or all of the three previous~~  
 500 ~~years, or that any land was illegally sold for taxation and is~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

501 ~~then liable to taxation, he shall assess such lands for the next~~  
 502 ~~fiscal year, and shall also assess the same separately for each~~  
 503 ~~such year or years as may have been omitted, or was illegally~~  
 504 ~~sold for taxes, at the cash value thereof at the time, noting~~  
 505 ~~distinctly the year or years when such omission occurred, and~~  
 506 ~~such assessment was omitted, and taxes shall be levied and~~  
 507 ~~collected thereon in like manner, together with the taxes for~~  
 508 ~~the year in which assessment is being made; but no land shall be~~  
 509 ~~assessed for more than three years arrears of taxes, and all~~  
 510 ~~land shall be subject to be assessed into whosoever's hands they~~  
 511 ~~may come.~~

512 ~~Section 41. BOARD OF EQUALIZATION. There shall be an~~  
 513 ~~equalizing board of the town composed of the members of the Town~~  
 514 ~~Council, and it shall meet on the first Monday in July each~~  
 515 ~~year. The town clerk shall be the clerk of such board, and shall~~  
 516 ~~keep an accurate record of all the changes made in the valuation~~  
 517 ~~of the property, and all other proceedings of such board.~~

518 ~~Section 42. THE EQUALIZING BOARD; POWERS AND DUTIES. The~~  
 519 ~~equalizing board shall have power to review all complaints of~~  
 520 ~~property owners assessed for the purpose of taxation of real~~  
 521 ~~property within the town made by the town tax assessor,~~  
 522 ~~administer oaths, take testimony, hold hearings, and adopt~~  
 523 ~~regulations regarding the procedure of assessment review.~~

524 ~~Section 43. MEETINGS. The equalizing board may adjourn~~  
 525 ~~from day to day until its work is completed, and three members~~

ENROLLED

CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

526 ~~shall constitute a quorum to transact business. If no quorum is~~  
 527 ~~present, the town clerk may adjourn the board from day to day,~~  
 528 ~~and publicly announce the time to which the meeting is to be~~  
 529 ~~adjourned.~~

530 ~~Section 44. PUBLIC HEARING ON COMPLAINTS; NOTICE. Beginning~~  
 531 ~~on the first Monday of July of each fiscal year, and as long~~  
 532 ~~thereafter as may be necessary, the equalizing board shall hear~~  
 533 ~~and determine the complaint of any person in relation to the~~  
 534 ~~assessment roll. Complaints to the equalizing board shall be in~~  
 535 ~~writing. The procedure before such board shall be informal, and~~  
 536 ~~of a nature calculated to effect justice as simply as possible.~~  
 537 ~~Hearings on such complaints shall be held in the order as~~  
 538 ~~received and as promptly after the filing thereof as possible,~~  
 539 ~~and the determination of the equalizing board shall be made~~  
 540 ~~within twenty days after such filing. Such determination shall~~  
 541 ~~be immediately certified by the equalizing board to the town tax~~  
 542 ~~assessor, whose duty it shall be to make such corrections upon~~  
 543 ~~the assessment roll and duplicate as the board may determine.~~

544 ~~Section 45. NOTICE. Not earlier than fifteen days and not~~  
 545 ~~later than five days prior to the annual meeting of the~~  
 546 ~~equalizing board, the town clerk shall cause to be published in~~  
 547 ~~a newspaper of the town a notice that the town assessment roll~~  
 548 ~~is open to the public for inspection, and that the assessment~~  
 549 ~~roll will be submitted to the equalizing board for approval on~~  
 550 ~~the date and at the time and place fixed for such meeting.~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

551       ~~Section 46. EQUALIZATION AND CORRECTION OF ASSESSMENT ROLL.~~  
552       ~~The equalizing board shall have the right to change the~~  
553       ~~valuation or assessment of any real or personal property upon~~  
554       ~~the roll, by increasing or decreasing the assessed valuation~~  
555       ~~thereof as shall be reasonable and just to render taxation~~  
556       ~~uniform, provided, that the valuation of any real or personal~~  
557       ~~property as assessed by the town tax assessor shall not be~~  
558       ~~increased without first giving the owner notice of the intention~~  
559       ~~of the board to so increase it. Such notice shall be by personal~~  
560       ~~service upon the owner, or by leaving a copy of the written~~  
561       ~~notice at his usual place of business, or last place of~~  
562       ~~residence, and if a non-resident by mailing such notice of his~~  
563       ~~last known address, and such notice shall state therein the time~~  
564       ~~when the board will be in session to act upon the matter.~~

565       ~~Section 47. SESSIONS TO BE OPEN. The sessions of the~~  
566       ~~equalizing board shall be open to the public.~~

567       ~~Section 48. COMPLETION OF THE ROLL. All changes made by the~~  
568       ~~equalizing board shall be noted in the preliminary assessment~~  
569       ~~roll by the town tax assessor, and, within 10 days after the~~  
570       ~~equalizing board shall have concluded its examination and~~  
571       ~~correction of the assessment roll, it shall be submitted in~~  
572       ~~corrected form, duly Certified to by the town tax assessor as~~  
573       ~~having been corrected and equalized by the equalizing board to~~  
574       ~~the Town Council, and shall stand as the assessment for the year~~  
575       ~~of the taxable property within the town.~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

576       ~~Section 49. OMISSIONS FROM ASSESSMENT ROLL. The equalizing~~  
 577 ~~board must place upon and add to the assessment roll any~~  
 578 ~~property, real or personal, subject to taxation, which has been~~  
 579 ~~omitted therefrom by the town tax assessor, and enter the same~~  
 580 ~~at such valuation that will bear an equal and just proportion of~~  
 581 ~~taxation.~~

582       ~~Section 50. APPEAL TO THE COURTS. Any person feeling~~  
 583 ~~aggrieved by any decision of the equalizing board in any matter~~  
 584 ~~that he is called upon by such board to correct, alter or change~~  
 585 ~~with reference to the listing of valuation of his own property,~~  
 586 ~~may appeal to the Circuit Court not later than thirty days after~~  
 587 ~~the certification to the town tax assessor.~~

588       ~~Section 51. TAXES; WHEN PAYABLE. All taxes shall be due and~~  
 589 ~~payable on the first day of November, in each year, or as soon~~  
 590 ~~thereafter as the assessment roll may come into the hands of the~~  
 591 ~~town treasurer and collector, of which he shall give notice in a~~  
 592 ~~newspaper published in said town, or published in the county~~  
 593 ~~where said town is situated, that the taxes are then due and~~  
 594 ~~payable. The same discounts shall be allowed on tax payments due~~  
 595 ~~the town, as are allowed on tax payments due the counties under~~  
 596 ~~the general statutes of the State of Florida.~~

597       ~~Section 52. WHEN TAX BOOKS CLOSE. The tax books shall close~~  
 598 ~~on the 31st day of March, in each year, and the town treasurer~~  
 599 ~~and collector shall proceed as hereinafter provided.~~

600       ~~Section 53. MAY ISSUE DISTRESS WARRANTS. The town treasurer~~



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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

601 ~~and collector shall have power to issue distress warrants in the~~  
 602 ~~name of the state and town to enforce collection of taxes on~~  
 603 ~~personal property and privileges. Such warrants may be executed~~  
 604 ~~by the chief of police, or by any constable or sheriff,~~  
 605 ~~according to the method provided by law for the collection of~~  
 606 ~~state and county taxes lawfully assessed on personal property.~~

607 ~~Section 54. CONSTITUTE A LIEN. Taxes and assessments,~~  
 608 ~~together with the interest imposed for delinquency and cost of~~  
 609 ~~collection, shall be and continue a lien upon the property~~  
 610 ~~assessed, superior to all other liens or claims until the same~~  
 611 ~~shall be paid.~~

612 ~~Section 55. COLLECTION OF TAXES. The town treasurer and~~  
 613 ~~collector shall, unless otherwise provided, proceed~~  
 614 ~~substantially in the same manner in the collection of taxes, and~~  
 615 ~~sale of personal property for non-payment of taxes and licenses~~  
 616 ~~as is provided for state collectors under the state law, and he~~  
 617 ~~shall be subject to the same penalties as are prescribed by the~~  
 618 ~~laws of Florida for any violation of the duties imposed upon him~~  
 619 ~~by this charter. Delinquent taxes due the town on real estate~~  
 620 ~~shall be collected in the manner provided by the laws of~~  
 621 ~~Florida, and the amount thereof shall be certified to the Town~~  
 622 ~~Attorney for that purpose, after the tax books shall close. Such~~  
 623 ~~delinquent taxes may be paid to said Town Attorney at any time~~  
 624 ~~after such certification, and before sale, upon payment of the~~  
 625 ~~amount of such tax, and also all costs and expenses incurred to~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

626 ~~the date of such payment, including a reasonable attorney fee~~  
 627 ~~for such collection. The amount of all taxes, real and personal,~~  
 628 ~~shall bear interest at the rate of one per cent per month after~~  
 629 ~~the tax books shall close, and the amount of such interest shall~~  
 630 ~~be collected when such tax is collected.~~

631 ~~Section 56. LICENSES. The Town Council is authorized to~~  
 632 ~~levy and impose license taxes by ordinance, for the purpose of~~  
 633 ~~regulation and revenue, upon all occupations, and upon any and~~  
 634 ~~all privileges, and to create and fix the amounts to be paid; to~~  
 635 ~~provide for the collection of the same, and to provide penalties~~  
 636 ~~for failure to pay such license taxes; all such license taxes,~~  
 637 ~~so imposed, shall constitute a legal indebtedness to the town,~~  
 638 ~~which may be recovered in any court of competent jurisdiction.~~  
 639 ~~The Town Council may, by ordinance, provide for licensing the~~  
 640 ~~keeping of dogs, and for the destruction of dogs, the owner and~~  
 641 ~~keeper whereof shall not comply with the regulations prescribed~~  
 642 ~~by ordinance in effect thereto, and for the punishment of~~  
 643 ~~persons violating the ordinances on this subject.~~

644 ~~Section 57. PERIOD COVERED BY LICENSES. Licenses shall be~~  
 645 ~~issued for the periods and be transferable as provided by the~~  
 646 ~~general law for state licenses. The agent or agents of non-~~  
 647 ~~resident proprietors shall be severally responsible for carrying~~  
 648 ~~on business in like manner as if they were proprietors. The fact~~  
 649 ~~that any person, firm or corporation reporting himself or itself~~  
 650 ~~as engaged in any business calling, profession or occupation for~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

651 ~~the transaction of which a license is required, or that person,~~  
 652 ~~firm or corporation exhibiting a sign or advertisement~~  
 653 ~~indicating engagement in such business calling, profession or~~  
 654 ~~occupation, shall be conclusive evidence of the liability of~~  
 655 ~~such person, firm, or corporation to pay a license.~~

656 Section 29 ~~58~~. AUTHORITY OF TOWN TO PURCHASE, OWN AND  
 657 OPERATE CERTAIN PUBLIC UTILITIES. The Town of Fort White,  
 658 Florida, is hereby authorized by and through its officers,  
 659 agents, employees, and representatives, to purchase, build,  
 660 construct, own, control, repair, lease, operate, manage, extend,  
 661 or sell an electric light plant, a water works plant, and an ice  
 662 plant, and any and all other public utility plants, and to  
 663 prescribe and enforce rates, rules and regulations necessary  
 664 thereto.

665 Section 30. ~~59~~. SERVICE OF UTILITIES TO CONSUMERS OUTSIDE  
 666 OF TOWN. ~~That~~ The Town Council shall have the power to supply  
 667 water, electricity, and gas for domestic and other purposes to  
 668 individuals or corporations outside of said town and to charge  
 669 and collect reasonable rates, prices and compensation therefor,  
 670 but the Town Council shall charge a higher rate to such  
 671 consumers than it charges for a like class of consumers within  
 672 the corporate limits of said town.

673 Section 31. ~~60~~. AUTHORITY OF TOWN TO SELL PUBLIC UTILITY  
 674 PLANTS; PROCEDURE. The Town Council may sell the public utility  
 675 plants owned by the Town of Fort White, or any one or all of

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

676 | them, after the Town Council shall have first passed an  
 677 | ordinance in which is stated the terms of purchase, and after  
 678 | such ordinance has been submitted to the qualified electors of  
 679 | said town, who are freeholders, for a period of at least sixty  
 680 | days prior to said election, and such action as is provided, in  
 681 | and by such ordinance is ratified by a majority of those voting  
 682 | at such election. In all other respects not herein specially  
 683 | provided for, such election shall be called and held as is  
 684 | provided by law for calling and holding bond elections of said  
 685 | town.

686 |       Section 32. ~~61.~~ CONTRACT WITH PERSONS OUTSIDE TOWN TO  
 687 | FURNISH TOWN WITH ELECTRICITY. The Town Council together with  
 688 | the Mayor are hereby authorized and empowered to contract with  
 689 | persons, firms or corporations beyond the limits of said town to  
 690 | furnish electric current to said town, and to construct such  
 691 | lines, wires, poles, towers and conduits as may be necessary to  
 692 | obtain such current.

693 |       Section 33. ~~62.~~ GRANTING OF FRANCHISES. The town shall have  
 694 | power to grant a franchise to any private corporation for the  
 695 | use of streets and other public places in the furnishing of any  
 696 | public utility service to the town and to its inhabitants. All  
 697 | franchises and any renewals, extensions and amendments thereto,  
 698 | shall be granted only by ordinance.

699 |       Section 34. ~~63.~~ FRANCHISES NOT AFFECTED. The provisions of  
 700 | this charter shall not apply to any franchise granted any public

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

701 utility company prior to the effective date of this charter.

702       Section 35. ~~64.~~ ELECTIONS. The provisions of the general  
 703 election laws of the state pertaining to municipal elections  
 704 shall apply. All elections shall be conducted by the election  
 705 authorities established by law. ~~The Town Council shall, by~~  
 706 ~~ordinance, make all regulations which it considers needful or~~  
 707 ~~desirable, not inconsistent with this charter, for the conduct~~  
 708 ~~of municipal elections, and for the prevention of fraud therein.~~  
 709 ~~Inspectors and clerks of elections shall be appointed by the~~  
 710 ~~Town Council.~~

711       Section 36. ~~65.~~ ELECTORS. Any person who is a qualified  
 712 elector of the State of Florida and resident of the town, ~~and~~  
 713 ~~who has resided in the town for one year,~~ shall be an elector of  
 714 the this town.

715       Section 37. ~~66.~~ REGISTRATION OF VOTERS. All persons  
 716 eligible to vote shall be registered in accordance with the  
 717 Florida Election Code. ~~The town clerk shall be the registration~~  
 718 ~~officer for the town and shall register all persons applying to~~  
 719 ~~him whose names are not already borne upon the registration book~~  
 720 ~~and who are qualified as electors under the provisions of this~~  
 721 ~~charter. For this purpose The registration book shall always be~~  
 722 ~~open at the office of the town clerk, except that same shall be~~  
 723 ~~closed for five days before and during the day of any town~~  
 724 ~~election. Each person applying to be registered shall make the~~  
 725 ~~following oath, which will be administered by the registration~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

726 ~~officer or his duly appointed deputy: "I do solemnly swear that~~  
727 ~~I am a bona fide resident of the Town of Fort White and possess~~  
728 ~~all of the qualifications of an elector of said town." Any~~  
729 ~~person taking such oath who shall swear falsely shall be guilty~~  
730 ~~of perjury. The name of each person so registered shall be~~  
731 ~~entered in a book prepared for that purpose, which book shall~~  
732 ~~show, under appropriate heading, the age, color, occupation and~~  
733 ~~exact place of residence of each person so registered, and~~  
734 ~~whether the registrant is a free holder. The Town Council may,~~  
735 ~~by ordinance, provide for revision of the registration list of~~  
736 ~~voters when, in their opinion, a revision is necessary.~~

737 ~~Section 67. NOMINATIONS. Any qualified elector of the town~~  
738 ~~may be nominated for the council by petition. A petition for~~  
739 ~~this purpose shall be signed by not less than 10 qualified~~  
740 ~~electors. Each petition shall designate the seat for which the~~  
741 ~~candidate is nominated. The form of the nominating petition~~  
742 ~~shall be substantially as follows:~~

743 ~~We, the undersigned electors of the Town of Fort~~  
744 ~~White, hereby nominate~~  
745 ~~....., whose residence~~  
746 ~~is ....., for the office~~  
747 ~~of Councilman, Seat No....., Mayor (strike out~~  
748 ~~portion not applicable), to be voted for at the~~  
749 ~~election to be held on the . . . . day of .....,~~  
750 ~~19.... ; and we individually certify that our names~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

751 ~~appear on the rolls of registered voters, that we are~~  
 752 ~~qualified to vote for a candidate for the council.~~  
 753 ~~Name Street and Address from which last Date of Number~~  
 754 ~~Registered (if different) Signing~~  
 755  
 756 ~~(SPACES FOR SIGNATURES AND REQUIRED DATA)~~  
 757  
 758 ~~Thereafter, each petition must be submitted before noon of the~~  
 759 ~~28th day preceding the first day of the qualifying period for~~  
 760 ~~the office sought to the town clerk. The town clerk shall make a~~  
 761 ~~record of the exact time at which each petition is filed, and~~  
 762 ~~shall take and preserve the name and address of the person by~~  
 763 ~~whom it is filed. The town clerk shall check the signatures on~~  
 764 ~~the petitions to verify their status as voters in the Town. If a~~  
 765 ~~petition is found insufficient, the town clerk shall return it~~  
 766 ~~immediately to the person who filed it with a statement~~  
 767 ~~certifying wherein the petition is found insufficient. No later~~  
 768 ~~than the 7th day before the first day of the qualifying period,~~  
 769 ~~the town clerk shall certify the number of valid signatures.~~  
 770 ~~Section 68. ELECTIONS. A regular or general election of~~  
 771 ~~candidates to the office of Town Council shall be held each year~~  
 772 ~~on the second Tuesday in August for each seat on the Town~~  
 773 ~~Council which shall become vacant at 8:00 O'Clock P. M. on the~~  
 774 ~~fourth Tuesday in August of the same year. The candidate for~~  
 775 ~~each seat to be filled receiving the greatest number of votes in~~

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

776 ~~said election shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie~~  
 777 ~~between two candidates for any seat upon the Town Council in the~~  
 778 ~~general election, another general election shall be held on the~~  
 779 ~~Tuesday following the general election and the two candidates~~  
 780 ~~receiving the equal votes shall be the only candidates on the~~  
 781 ~~ballot for such general election.~~

782 ~~Section 69. ELECTIONS; GOVERNED BY STATE LAW OR ORDINANCE.~~  
 783 ~~Except as herein specifically provided, all elections in the~~  
 784 ~~town shall be conducted substantially on the principles~~  
 785 ~~governing state elections, or as the Town Council shall by~~  
 786 ~~ordinance prescribe.~~

787 ~~Section 70. ELECTIONS; CANVASS OF RETURNS.— The polls shall~~  
 788 ~~open at seven o'clock A. M. and shall close at seven o'clock P.~~  
 789 ~~M. the result of the voting, when ascertained, shall be~~  
 790 ~~certified by return in duplicate, signed by the clerk and a~~  
 791 ~~majority of the inspectors of election, one copy being delivered~~  
 792 ~~by such clerk, and inspectors to the mayor and the other to the~~  
 793 ~~town clerk, both of whom shall transmit such returns to the Town~~  
 794 ~~Council. At such meeting the Town Council shall canvass the~~  
 795 ~~returns and the results as shown by such returns shall be by the~~  
 796 ~~Town Council declared as the result of the election. The town~~  
 797 ~~clerk shall, not later than noon of the second day after the~~  
 798 ~~canvass of said election, furnish a certificate of election to~~  
 799 ~~each person shown to have been elected.~~

800 ~~Section 71. FIRST ELECTION; DUTIES TO CALL. It shall be~~



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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

801 ~~the duty of the Town Council now in office to call and hold the~~  
 802 ~~first election for Town Councilmen under this charter, which~~  
 803 ~~shall be held on the Second Tuesday in August, 1957, for the~~  
 804 ~~election of a Town Councilman for Seats One, Two, Three and Four~~  
 805 ~~and for Mayor. The election of the Councilman for Seats One and~~  
 806 ~~Two shall be for a two year term, commencing at 8: 00 O'Clock P.~~  
 807 ~~M. on the fourth Tuesday in August, 1957, and the election of~~  
 808 ~~Councilman for Seats Three and Four and Mayor shall be for a~~  
 809 ~~three year term, commencing at 8: 00 O'Clock P. M. on the fourth~~  
 810 ~~Tuesday in August, 1957. Thereafter all members of the Town~~  
 811 ~~Council shall be elected for a three year term.~~

812       Section 38. ~~72.~~ PUBLICITY OF RECORDS. All records and  
 813 accounts of every office, department or agency of the town shall  
 814 be open to inspection by any citizen, any representative of a  
 815 citizens' organization or any representative of the press at all  
 816 reasonable times and under reasonable regulations established by  
 817 the Town Council.

818       Section 39. ~~73.~~ OFFICIAL BONDS. The Town Council shall  
 819 determine whether or not each officer, clerk, or employee shall  
 820 give bond, and the amount thereof, but all officers, clerks and  
 821 employees handling any funds or property of the town shall be  
 822 required to give bond to the town, which bonds shall be procured  
 823 from a regularly accredited surety company authorized to do  
 824 business under the laws of Florida, the premiums on such bonds  
 825 to be paid by the town. All such bonds shall be filed in the

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

826 office of the Town Clerk ~~treasurer and collector~~.

827 Section 40. ~~74.~~ OATH OF OFFICE. Every officer of the town  
 828 shall, before entering upon the duties of his or her office,  
 829 take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation, to be  
 830 filed and kept in the office of the town clerk:

831 "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support  
 832 the Constitution and will obey the laws of the United  
 833 States and of the State of Florida, that I will, in  
 834 all respects, observe the provisions of the charter  
 835 and ordinances of the Town of Fort White, and will  
 836 faithfully discharge the duties of the office of  
 837 ....."

838 Section 41. ~~75.~~ EFFECT OF THIS CHARTER ON EXISTING LAW.  
 839 All laws and parts of laws relating to or affecting the town in  
 840 force when this charter shall take effect are hereby repealed  
 841 and superseded to the extent that the same are inconsistent with  
 842 the provisions of this charter.

843 Section 42. ~~76.~~ WHEN GENERAL LAWS OF STATE APPLICABLE. All  
 844 general laws of the state, applicable to municipal corporations  
 845 now or which may hereafter be enacted, and which are not in  
 846 conflict with the provisions of this charter or with the  
 847 ordinances and resolutions hereafter enacted by the Town Council  
 848 shall be applicable to this town; provided, however, that  
 849 nothing contained in this charter shall be construed as limiting  
 850 the power of the Town Council to enact any ordinance or

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

851 resolution not in conflict with the Constitution of the state or  
 852 with the express provisions of this charter.

853 Section 43. ~~77.~~ GENERAL LAW OF STATE GOVERNING CITY  
 854 COUNCILS TO APPLY TO TOWN COUNCILS. That any right or authority  
 855 given or permitted by the Constitution and laws of the State of  
 856 Florida to City Councils not inconsistent with the provisions of  
 857 this Act shall be given, permitted and extended to the Town  
 858 Councilmembers ~~Councilmen~~ of the Town of Fort White.

859 Section 44. ~~78.~~ DEDICATION OF STREETS. No street or alley  
 860 hereinafter dedicated to public use by the owner of any land  
 861 within the town shall be deemed a public street or alley, under  
 862 the care or control of the town, unless the dedication be  
 863 accepted and confirmed by ordinance passed for such purpose.

864 Section 45. ~~79.~~ FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year of the town  
 865 shall be from October ~~January~~ 1st to September 30th ~~December~~  
 866 ~~31st~~ of each year.

867 Section 46. ~~80.~~ EXECUTION OF CONTRACTS AND VALIDATION OF  
 868 TOWN WARRANTS FOR EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS. In addition to all other  
 869 requirements of this charter regarding contracts, no contract  
 870 entered into by the town shall be valid until executed on behalf  
 871 of the town by the Mayor or a Councilmember and Town Clerk. In  
 872 addition to all other requirements under this charter regarding  
 873 the disbursement or payment of town funds, no warrant for the  
 874 payment of town funds shall be valid unless signed by the Mayor  
 875 and the Town Clerk ~~Treasurer~~. In addition to the requirements of

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CS/HB 1565

2023 Legislature

876 | this section regarding the disbursement of funds, the Town  
877 | Council may, by ordinance, prescribe additional requirements.

878 |       Section 47. ~~81.~~ SHORT TITLE. This charter, adopted by the  
879 | people of the Town of Fort White, shall be known and may be  
880 | cited as the "Fort White Charter."

881 |       Section 48. ~~82.~~ SEPARABILITY CLAUSE. If any section or part  
882 | of section of this charter shall be held invalid by a court of  
883 | competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the  
884 | remainder of this charter nor the context in which such section  
885 | or part of section so hold invalid may appear, except to the  
886 | extent that an entire section or part of section may be  
887 | inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the section or  
888 | part of section to which such holding shall directly apply.

889 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.