OFFICIAL.

BY AUTHORITY.

[No. 296.]
AN ACT

To provide for the government and administration of the affairs of the city of New Orleans, to cede to the true Municipalities thereof should be restored into one Corporation.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That all that portion of the parish of Orleans situated on the left bank of the river Mississippi, shall be the city of New Orleans, and that all the free white inhabitants thereof shall be a body corporate by the name of "The Mayor, Aldermen and Inhabitants of the City of New Orleans," and by that name they and their successors shall be known in law and be capable of suing and being sued, and of defending, in all courts and in all actions and matters whatsoever; all may have a common seal, and may alter and change the same at their pleasure, and by the same name they shall be capable of holding and conveying real estate, real or personal, for the uses of the said corporation, under the restrictions and limitations hereinafter set forth.

Sec. 2. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the city of New Orleans shall be, and the same is hereby divided into eight separate districts, in which the respective boun aries of which shall be as follows:

First, for wards No. 1, from the river and following the middle of Canal st. in a straight line to the middle of Basin st., thence following in a parallel line at 200 feet from the eastern bank or side canal as far as the Pontchartrain; thence following the said Pontchartrain as far as the middle of Bayou St. John, including the settlements which are on the lake at the mouth of said bayou; thence following the said middle of said bayou as far as its intersection with the middle of the prolongation of Esplanade street as far as the river, and to the place following the point of departure.

Second, for section No. 2, from the river and following the middle of Canal street in a straight line as far as two hundred feet from the eastern bank of the canal of the Bank; thence following in a parallel line at two hundred feet from the eastern bank of said Canal, thence following the said line at two hundred feet from the Western bank of said Canal as far as the middle of the Canal Avenue of Carrollton; thence following the said middle of said Avenue as far as its intersection with the prolongation of the Esplanade street as far as the river, and to the place following the point of departure.

Third for Section No. 3, from the river and following the middle of Esplanade street in a straight line as far as the middle of Bayou St. John, thence following the middle of said Bayou as far as the Pontchartrain; thence following said lake as far as the middle of Chef Menteur river; thence following the middle of said river as far as Lake Borgne, thence following Lake Borgne as far as the middle of Bayou Bienvenu; thence following the middle of said bayou as far as the Fisherman's Canal (as far as the Pecheurs); thence following the middle of the Fishermen Canal as far as the river, and thence following the river up to the point of departure, and including the settlements which are on the Lake Pontchartrain opposite said section. It is understood that the above boundary of the second section, such as it is defined, from the river to the Lake Pontchartrain, shall hereafter be the common boundary of the parish of Orleans and of the parish of Jefferson, and that the lower boundary of the third section, such as defined from the river to the Lake Borgne, shall be the common boundary of the parishes of Orleans and St. Bernard.

Sec. 3. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the city of New Orleans shall be divided into nine Representative Districts for the election of Aldermen, to wit:

1. The First District to extend from the line of the parish of Jefferson to the middle of Benjamin, Esplanade and Thalia streets.

2. The Second District to extend from the last mentioned limits to the middle of John street, until it strikes the New Orleans Canal, thence down said canal to the lake.

3. The Third District to compose the residue of section No. 2, as in the preceding section of this act.

4. The Fourth District to extend from the middle of Canal street to the middle of St. Louis street, until it reaches the Metairie Road, thence along said road to the New Orleans Canal.

5. The Fifth District to extend from the last mentioned limits to the middle of St. Philippe street, thence down said street until its intersection with the Bayou St. John, thence along the middle of said bayou until it intersects the Metairie Road, thence along said road until it reaches Salt out street.

6. The Sixth District to be composed of the residue of section No. 1, as above described.

7. The Seventh district to extend from the middle of Esplanade street to the middle of Champs Elysees street.

8. The Eighth District to extend from the middle of Champs Elysees street to the middle of Benjamin street and Lafayette Avenue.

9. The Ninth District to extend from the middle of English street and Lafayette Avenue to the lower limits of the parish.

Sec. 4. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the city of New Orleans shall have one government, and its affairs shall be administered by one Mayor, Six Recorders, one Treasurer, one Comptroller, one Surveyor, one Street Commissioner, one Chief of the Police, one Board of Aldermen to be called "The City Council of New Orleans" and as many subordinate officers for pre erving the peace and good order of the said city as the said City Council shall deem necessary.

Sec. 5. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the qualifications of the Mayor, Recorders, Treasurer, Comptroller, Surveyor, Street Commissioner, Chief of the Police, and Aldermen of said city shall be the same as are required for members of the House of Repre en atives in the General Assembly of the State.

Sec. 6. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the elections of Mayor, Recorders, Treasurer, Comptroller, Surveyor, Street Commissioner and Chief of the Police of the city of New Orleans shall take place every two years by general ticket on the fourth Monday of April, and they shall enter upon the duties of their office on the second Monday of May following.

Sec. 7. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the electionsof Aldermen in each ward the different Districts in the City Council, shall take place on the fourth Mondays of April of every year, and the Aldermen so elected shall enter upon the discharge of their office on the second Monday of May following.

Sec. 8. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the qualifications of voters for Mayor, Recorders, Treasurer, Comptroller, Surveyor, Street Commissioner, Chief of the Police and Aldermen shall be the same as are prescribed by the Constitution of the State for the electors of Representatives in the General Assembly of the State.

Sec. 9. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That in each of the wards now constituted, there shall be a poll held as nearly central as practicable for the election of Mayor, Recorders, Treasurer, Comptroller, Surveyor, Street Commissioner, Chief of the Police and Aldermen, whenever an election of all or any of said officers is or may be required by law.

Sec. 10. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That such election at each of said polls shall be conducted by three inspectors, one of whom shall be chosen or appointed by the Mayor of the city of New Orleans for the time being, the other two by the City Council; two clerks shall also be appointed by the City Council, each of whom the Mayor shall administer the oath contained in the 99th article of the Constitution of this state.

Sec. 11. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the returns of said elections shall be made by said inspectors to the Mayor, within six days after, and the Recorders of the said city specially notified by the Mayor for that purpose, in which three days after said returns have been received, and which shall cause to be published in the official journal of the said City Council.

Sec. 12. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That in case of the resignation, death or removal of the Mayor, Recorders, Treasurer, Comptroller, Surveyor, Street Commissioner, Chief of the Police, and Aldermen, or any one of them, the City Council shall, as soon as practicable, order a new election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term, and in the mean while, and until such election shall have taken place as Council shall have power to appoint a Mayor, a Recorder, or a Comptroller, a Surveyor, a Street Commissioner, or a Chief of the Police *pro tempore*."

Sec. 13. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the Mayor, Recorders, Treasurer, Comptroller, Surveyor, Street Commissioners, Chief of the Police and Aldermen, and all other officers elected or appointed by virtue of this Act shall, before they enter upon the duties of the office to which they respectively be elected subscribe the oath prescribed by article 98 of the Constitution of the State, which oath shall be taken by the Mayor before a Justice of the Peace of New Orleans, and by the other officers respectively before the said Mayor.

Sec. 14. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That representation in the City Council shall be equal and uniform, and shall be regulated and ascertained by the number of qualified voters in each District; but each District shall be entitled to at least one Alderman.

Sec. 15. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the City Council shall at their first regular session under this act, and every fourth year thereafter, appoint Commissioners to take the census of the different Districts of the city of New Orleans, which census shall be completed before the end of the year, and the said City Council shall immediately after the said census shall have been completed, and before proceeding to any other business, apportion the representation among the several Districts, on the basis of the number of qualified voters, as aforesaid. A representative number shall be fixed, and each District shall have many Aldermen as its free population shall entitle it to, and an additional Alderman for every fraction exceeding one-half of the representative number; provided that the number of Aldermen shall never be less than eighteen, nor more than twenty-four. But in the first election which shall take place under this act, each District shall be entitled to as many Aldermen as it is now entitled to Representatives in the House of Representatives of the State.

Sec. 16. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the Aldermen chosen as aforesaid shall constitute the City Council, over which the Recorders shall, each one in his turn, and for the space of one month, preside; but they shall have no vote except a casting vote, and in case of the absence or inability of one or both of the said Recorders, the said Council shall have a right to choose one of their members as President *pro tempore*.

Sec. 17. *Be it further enacted &c.*, That the said City Council shall be judge of the election of its own members, and shall elect, prescribe, its rules and other officers. It shall meet at least once a month for the transaction of business, and its sittings shall be public. It shall also have the power to make and adopt all rules necessary for its own government and the proper regulation of its proceedings—to compel the attendance of absent members, to punish them for disorderly conduct; expel a member, and remove from office all delinquent officers by a vote of two thirds of the members elect. But before final expulsion, and conviction of having had been given to him, and no member shall be expelled and no officer removed except by a resolution of the Council, which contains a provision that shall not be in effect unless it contain a provision for a special election within two weeks thereafter in which such vacancy is to be filled. No other than special election shall not be ordered unless there be at least two months of the time of the expected member remained. The proceedings of the said City Council shall be published in French and English in the official paper of the said City Council.

Sec. 18. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That no member of the City Council shall be appointed to any employment or office under the government of the city of New Orleans during the year for which he was elected, nor before six months after the expiration of the said term, and no member of the City Council, head of Department, Chief of Bureau, Deputy thereof, Clerk thereof, or any other officer of the corporation, shall be directly or indirectly interested in any work, business, or contract, or the sale of any article, the expense, price or consideration of which is paid from the City Treasury, or by an assessment levied by an act or ordinance of the City Council, nor in the purchase of any real estate belonging to the corporation, or which shall be sold for taxes or assessments, or be the surety of any person having any contract, work or business with the said city, for the performance of which security may be required.

Sec. 19. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the Mayor and City Council shall have full power and authority to make and pass such by-laws and ordinances as are necessary and proper:

1st. To regulate the police and preserve the peace and good order of the city; to establish and prescribe rules for a city guard and patrols; and in cases of interior disturbance, to establish patrols and square guards, consisting of all white male persons capable of bearing arms, between the ages of eighteen and fifty; to provide for and maintain the cleanliness and salubrity of the city.

2d. To regulate and make improvements to the streets, public squares, wharves, and other public property, and to provide for the lighting and watering of the same; to enter and direct the pitching, filling, opening, widening and continuing any of the streets, and if, for such purpose, the land of any corporate, or necessary to be taken for the use of such streets, the said City Council shall have the power of the same in the appropriate manner, on due compensation according to the rules prescribed by existing laws, and the proceedings had for the exercise of such power, and the mode of ascertaining the compensation to be given to individuals for property taken, and the manner of collecting the same from the parties benefited by the opening, widening or continuing of streets, shall be the same as now provided by law, and the said City Council shall have the power to cause the sidewalks of the streets to be repaired and kept in order, and to cause the owners of lots fronting on the sidewalks which might be set up by any corporation or individual over such works by the owners of the lots fronting thereon.

3d. To regulate the opening of drains and canals at the cost of the proprietors of the lots or lands through which they may be directed to pass, and to prevent any encroachments upon or obstructions in any of the streets, public squares, lots or wharves of the said city, and to remove all encroachments and obstructions, and to cause the owners of lots to which they may belong to pay the value, which may constitute the said streets, or portions of the same, and to cause the same to be removed or sold for whom it may concern, in the same manner and after such advertisements as shall be required by the said Council.

4th. To regulate the police of the river and other navigable streams within the limits of the city, and to prevent the throwing of such articles therein as have been obstructed by the owners of the adjacent lands, or the filling up of any water course which is navigable, for the purpose of carrying the public highways over the same: *Provided* that no injury be thereby occasioned to the neighboring inhabitants.

5th. To fix the places of anchoring for ships, steamboats, and other water crafts in the port of New Orleans, leaving to the harbor-master the care of attending to the execution of the regulations made on this subject, and to regulate the police and maintain the public peace on board of ships, steamboats and other vessels, or similar floating edifices on the Mississippi, within the limits of New Orleans.

Sec. 20. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the City Council shall have power to establish houses of refuge and correction, asylums and hospitals, and to make such regulations for their government and administration, as they may deem necessary and proper.

Sec. 21. To organize the different offices created by this act, appoint subordinate officers and clerks for the said offices, and exact from all officers and clerks all other bonds and sureties they may deem necessary and indemnifying, such bonds and security for the faithful performance of their duties and obligations, as they may deem proper and necessary, and to require such evidence of the solvency and sufficiency of said sureties as they may deem proper and sufficient.

Sec. 22. To impose and collect fines for the benefit of the City Treasury, against all persons transgressing their ordinances and regulations, and to imprison said transgressors in default of payment of said fines, *Provided*, that said fines shall never exceed one hundred dollars, or such punishment shall never exceed one month.

Sec. 23. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the City Council shall perform all the duties, exercise all the powers and be entitled to all the rights and privileges which are now by law imposed or belonging to the General Council or the Council of the several Municipalities, in relation to any property belonging to the city, or to the separate Municipalities, and in relation to the incorporated Companies in the State, in which, by their charters, the said City Council shall have a right to vote, or to be represented; but the revenues and price of the said property, if sold, and the interest and profits arising from the same, if rented, shall continue to belong to the Municipalities, shall belong to and be observed by the City Council in the assessment and collection of taxes in the City of New Orleans.

Sec. 24. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That all bonds and recognizances taken by the Justices of the Peace, Mayor and Recorders of New Orleans for the public peace or in criminal matters generally, shall, when forfeited, be received by the City Attorney for the use of the Treasury of the said City.

Sec. 25. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That no money shall be drawn from the City Treasury except the same shall have been previously appropriated for the purpose for which it was drawn; and all appropriations shall be based upon specific and detailed statements in writing of the several heads of Department through the Comptroller.

Sec. 26. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That the Mayor shall be at least thirty years of age, and shall have the qualifications required for members of the House of Representatives. He shall keep his office in some central part of the City of New Orleans, which shall be determined by the City Council. He shall have a seal to be called the seal of the City of New Orleans, which shall be affixed to all proper official acts, of the Corporation. He shall issue licenses and shall cause to be enforced by the ordinances of the City Council to take out licenses, for each of which he shall exact a fee not exceeding two dollars for the benefit of the City Treasury. He shall see that the laws and ordinances, within the limits of the City of New Orleans, be properly executed, and shall, at the end of each year, render to the City Council a full statement of the condition of the Police, and he Recorders make regulations for the Watchmen and City Guard, subject to the approval of the City Council. He shall call together the City Council whenever he shall deem the same necessary, or whenever five aldermen may in writing request him to do so; and he shall from time to time lay before them a full statement of the condition of the affairs of the City. He shall be ex-officio Justice and conservator of the peace, and shall sit as an examining magistrate in examining and committing for trial all persons accused of crimes which are punishable by death, and shall have power to commit to the said jail, and to cause to be confined therein, any person who shall refuse to enter into recognizance with sufficient security for his appearance to answer any charge made against him for the commission of any crime or misdemeanor. It shall further be his duty to attend the meetings of the City Council, and to give information in writing touching the state of the city, and to recommend such measures as he may deem expedient. He shall also perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the City Council, and shall receive for his services a salary not exceeding [illegible] dollars per annum, payable monthly.

Sec. 27. To regulate the police of theatres, public halls, taverns, places for shows and exhibitions, houses of public entertainment, and shops for retailing liquors, and to order the same to be closed whenever the preservation of order and the public safety and tranquility shall require it, and to impose such duties and regulations upon persons keeping such places, as they may deem necessary and proper.

Sec. 28. To regulate the proper government of carts, drays, carriages, omnibuses, and other vehicles of every description, and the ruin in the streets, or any where within the limits of the city, and to determine through what streets the same shall pass; to require that the owners of vehicles shall take out licenses, and to fix the salaries or fees of all draws, carriages, carts and other vehicles kept for hire; *Provided*, that such power shall not extend to carts, carriages or other vehicles which are only transiently within the limits of the city or to the drivers thereof.

Sec. 29. To prescribe the duties and those employed in carrying fire wood within the city and incorporated suburbs, to fix the places where fire-wood may be offered for sale, and to fix the price of the same, and the said city.

Sec. 30. To establish ferries and market places, and to farm out the same.

Sec. 31. To regulate the form and height of enclosures between the property of proper, and to require the proprietors of any ground to inclose the same.

Sec. 32. To impose fines upon any person or persons who shall obstruct, injure or violently break, or carry away any of the lamps belonging thereto, or the property supernumerary officers and collectors as he may think necessary, at his own expense and upon his own responsibility, and he may require such security from them as he may think necessary. He shall deposit the moneys collected by him in such a Bank as the City Council may determine. He determined shall, each quarter, be subject to the inspection of the Committee.

Sec. 33. *Be it further enacted, &c.*, That there shall be one Treasurer for the City of New Orleans who shall be ex officio Treasurer of the several Municipalities; they shall immediately proceed to dispose of and realize the value of the property belonging to said General Building Fund, and the proceeds of the sales of the Custom House, Post Office and Branch Mint, and the Court House and Prison, and the Council of Municipality No. 2, and the Council of Municipality No. 3, and the Council of Municipality No. 1