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Sec. 3.01. Council to control taxation and finances; powers generally.

The Town Council shall have control of taxation and finances for its municipal purposes. It shall have the powers set forth in the following sections subject to the general laws of the Commonwealth.

Sec. 3.02. Annual budget.

The Town Council shall have the power to prepare, or cause to be prepared, annually a budget showing the estimated receipts and proposed expenditures for Town purposes.

Sec. 3.03. Annual tax levies and property assessments; limitation as to Town bonds.

The Town Council shall have the power to raise annually, by the levying of taxes and assessments in the said Town, on all such property, real and personal, as is now or may be subject to taxation by the general laws of the Commonwealth, such sums of money as the Council thereof shall deem necessary,

for the purpose of said Town, in such manner as the Town Council shall deem expedient in accordance with the Constitution of the State; provided, however, that it shall impose no taxes on the bonds of said Town.

Sec. 3.04. Special assessments for local improvements.

The Town Council shall have the power to impose special or local assessments for local improvements and force payment thereof, subject to such limitations prescribed by the laws of the state as may be in force at the time of the imposition of such special and local assessments.

State Constitution reference— Assessments, art. X, §§ 2, 3.

Sec. 3.05. Property assessments.

The assessment of real and personal property in the Town, for the purpose of municipal taxation, shall be the same as the assessment for the purpose of County taxation, but where the Commissioner of Revenue for the Town knows of property that has been omitted by the Commissioner of Revenue of the County from his books, the Commissioner of Revenue of the Town, shall advise the Commissioner of Revenue of the County thereof, and thereafter such omitted property, real or personal, shall be assessed for taxation in the manner provided by general law. However, the Council may, by unanimous vote at a meeting at which all members are present, provide for another method of assessing real and personal property in the Town for municipal taxation not in conflict with the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

(Acts 1968, ch. 173)

Sec. 3.06. Repealed by Acts 1981, ch. 616.

Sec. 3.07. Licenses.

The Town Council shall have the power to impose licenses by ordinance upon businesses, trades, professions or callings, and upon persons, firms, associations or corporations engaged therein or offering to do business within the boundaries of the Town whose principal offices are or are not located in the Town, except when prohibited by general law, whether or not a license may be required therefor by the State. The fee for such license may exceed the State license fee, if any be required.

State Law reference— Business, professional and occupational license taxes, Code of Virginia, § 58.1-3700 et seq.

Sec. 3.08. Licensing of persons selling goods, etc., to dealers or retailers at other than definite place of business.

Licenses may also be imposed upon and a fee therefor collected from persons, firms or corporations selling and delivering at the same time at other than a definite place of business, goods, wares or merchandise, to licensed dealers or retailers in the Town.

Sec. 3.09. Water and sewer services, garbage collection services, etc.

The Town Council shall have the power to establish rates and fees for the following services provided by the Town: (1) water, (2) sewer and garbage collection, (3) other services, products, utilities or conveniences operated, rented or provided by the Town. The Town Council shall have the power and

authority to enforce collection of charges for all such services from any applicant for the same, whether it be a tenant, lessee or owner, including interest thereon, penalty, late charges and costs, including the right to require advance deposits in a reasonable amount by any applicant for such services, together with the right to terminate such services after reasonable notice to any person, firm or corporation who is in default in the payment of any sums due for the same.

(Acts 1981, ch. 616, § 1)

Sec. 3.10. Licensing of shows, circuses, carnivals, etc.

The Town Council shall have the power to license and regulate the holding and location of shows, circuses, public exhibitions, carnivals and other similar shows or fairs, or prohibit the holding of same, or any of them, within the Town or within one mile thereof.

Sec. 3.11. Registration and licensing of motor vehicles.

The Town Council shall have the power to require every owner of motor vehicles residing in the said Town on a date to be designated by the Council, to annually register such motor vehicles and to obtain a license to operate the same by making application to the Treasurer of the said Town, or such other person as may be designated by the Council of the said Town, to issue said license, and to require the said owner to pay an annual license fee therefor to be fixed by the Council within the limits permitted by State law.

Editor's note— The imposition of local vehicle licensing fees is provided in Code of Virginia, § 46.2-752(A).

Sec. 3.12. Licensing of vehicles for hire.

The Town Council shall have the power to grant or refuse licenses to owners or keepers of wagons, drays, carts, automobiles, motorcycles, trailers and other wheeled vehicles kept, used or employed in the Town for hire, or used for the transportation of persons or property for pay, and may require the owners or keepers of wagons, drays and carts, automobiles and other wheeled vehicles using them in the Town, to take out licenses therefor, and may assess and require taxes to be paid thereon, and subject the same to such regulations as they may deem proper, and may prescribe their rates, fees and compensation.

Sec. 3.13. Franchises.

The Town Council shall have the authority to grant franchises to public service corporations, for public transportation facilities and others, and to provide ordinances, rules and rights not contrary to State laws.

State Law reference— Franchises, Code of Virginia, § 15.2-2100 et seq.

Sec. 3.14. Power of Town as to taxes generally; limitation as to Town bonds.

The Town is empowered to levy and collect taxes, on all subjects of taxation except as restrained by the Constitution or by the general law heretofore or hereafter adopted, provided that it shall impose no taxes on the bonds of the said Town.

Sec. 3.15. Fixing of dates for payment of taxes, penalties, etc.

The Town Council shall have the right to prescribe the dates on which all taxes and licenses shall be payable and to prescribe penalties and interest rates for nonpayment on such dates, not in conflict with the general laws of this State.

Sec. 3.16. Contract of loans, etc., for use of Town.

The Town Council, within the limits of the Constitution of this State and in accordance with the provisions of the general laws thereof, may, in the name of, and for the use of, the Town, contract loans or cause to be issued certificates of debts, notes or bonds.

Sec. 3.17. Issuance of bonds for public improvements.

The Town Council shall have the authority to issue bonds for public improvements in accordance with the statutes of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sec. 3.18. Negotiation of temporary loans for current expenses of Town.

The Council shall have the power to negotiate temporary loans, in anticipation of taxes, for the purpose of paying current expenses of the Town; such loans to be evidenced by bonds or notes bearing interest at not exceeding the then current rate of interest established by state statute; such bonds or notes shall be payable within one year from date of issue out of the current revenue of the year in which the same are issued. No such temporary loan shall, in the aggregate, exceed fifteen percent of the previous year's gross income.

(Acts 1968, ch. 173)

Sec. 3.19. Execution of bonds, etc.

All bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness of the town, shall be signed by the Mayor and countersigned by the clerk of the council, who shall affix the corporate seal of the town and attest the same.

(Acts 2014, ch. 786, § 1)

Sec. 3.20. Sinking funds.

- (a) There shall be set apart from the revenues of the town an annual amount to be covered into a sinking fund sufficient to pay, at or before maturities, all outstanding bonded indebtedness of the town. This does not include so-called short term obligations of the town. The council may, in its discretion, annually, from time to time, set aside such additional sinking funds for equipment and capital improvements as it may deem advisable.
- (b) All sinking funds set aside for the payment of the bonded indebtedness of the town shall be used exclusively in the payment or purchase and redemption of such outstanding bonds. When any sinking funds are not immediately needed for the purpose for which they were provided, they may be invested in securities as provided for by the Public Finance Act (§ 15.2-2600 et seq.) of the Code of Virginia under the then existing laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia for public sinking funds, to such extent as the council shall deem proper or expedient.

(Acts 1968, ch. 173; Acts 2014, ch. 786, § 1)

Sec. 3.21. Annual audit of financial records; fiscal year.

The council shall have the financial records of the town audited by a certified public accountant annually, as soon after the close of the fiscal year as is practicable or at any other time deemed necessary by the council. The fiscal year begins and ends in accordance with the Code of Virginia.

(Acts 1968, ch. 173; Acts 2014, ch. 786, § 1)

Editor's note— A uniform fiscal year is provided in Code of Virginia, § 15.2-2500.

FOOTNOTE(S):

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State Constitution reference—Vote of majority of elected members required for appropriations, taxation or borrowing money in excess of \$500.00, art. VII, § 7; taxation and finance, art. X. [\(Back\)](#)