

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
1977 SESSION

CHAPTER 225
HOUSE BILL 650

AN ACT TO REVISE AND CONSOLIDATE THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF
HAZELWOOD AND TO REPEAL PRIOR LOCAL ACTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. The Charter of the Town of Hazelwood is hereby revised and consolidated to read as follows:

"THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF HAZELWOOD.

"ARTICLE I.

"INCORPORATION, CORPORATE POWERS AND BOUNDARIES.

"Sec. 1.1. Incorporation. The Town of Hazelwood, North Carolina in the County of Haywood, and the inhabitants thereof, shall continue to be a municipal body politic and corporate, under the name and style of the 'Town of Hazelwood', hereinafter at times referred to as the 'town'.

"Sec. 1.2. Powers. The Town of Hazelwood shall have and may exercise all of the powers, duties, rights, privileges and immunities, which are now, or hereafter may be, conferred, either expressly or by implication, upon the Town of Hazelwood specifically, or upon municipal corporations generally, by this charter, by the State Constitution, or by general or local law.

"Sec. 1.3. Corporate limits. The corporate limits of the Town of Hazelwood shall be those existing at the time of ratification of this charter, as the same are set forth on the official map of the town, and as the same may be altered from time to time in accordance with law. An official map of the town, showing the current town boundaries, shall be maintained permanently in the office of the town clerk, and shall be available for public inspection. Immediately upon alteration of the corporate limits made pursuant to law, the appropriate changes to the official map of the town shall be made.

"Sections 1.4 through 1.10 (Reserved.)

"ARTICLE II.

"MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN.

"Sec. 2.1. Governing body. The mayor and board of aldermen, elected and constituted as herein set forth, shall be the governing body of the town. On behalf of the town, and in conformity with applicable laws, the mayor and board may provide for the exercise of all municipal powers, and shall be charged with the general government of the town.

"Sec. 2.2. Board of Aldermen; composition; terms of office. The board of aldermen shall be composed of three members, each of whom shall be elected for terms of four

years in the manner provided by Article III of this charter, provided they shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified.

"Sec. 2.3. Selection of the mayor; term of office; duties. The mayor shall be elected directly by the voters of the town in the manner provided by Article III of this charter, for a term of four years; provided, the mayor shall serve until his successor is elected and qualified. The mayor shall be the official head of the town government and shall preside at all meetings of the board of aldermen. He shall have the right to vote only if there is an equal number of votes in the affirmative and the negative on any matter before the board. The mayor shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as presently are or hereafter may be conferred upon him by the General Statutes of North Carolina, by this charter, and by the ordinances of the town.

"Sec. 2.4. Mayor pro tempore. In accordance with applicable State laws, the board of aldermen shall appoint one of its members to act as mayor pro tempore to perform the duties of the mayor in the mayor's absence or disability. The mayor pro tempore as such shall have no fixed term of office, but shall serve in such capacity at the pleasure of the remaining members of the board.

"Sec. 2.5. Meetings of the board. In accordance with the General Statutes, the board of aldermen shall establish a suitable time and place for its regular meetings. Special meetings may be held according to the applicable provisions of the General Statutes.

"Sec. 2.6. Ordinances and resolutions. The adoption, amendment, repeal, pleading, or proving of town ordinances and resolutions shall be in accordance with the applicable provisions of the general laws of North Carolina not inconsistent with this charter. The ayes and noes shall be taken upon all ordinances and resolutions and entered upon the minutes of the board. The enacting clause of all town ordinances shall be: 'Be it ordained by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Hazelwood.'

"Sec. 2.7. Voting requirements; quorum. Official action of the board of aldermen shall, unless otherwise provided by law, be by majority vote, provided that a quorum, consisting of a majority of the actual membership of the board, is present. Vacant seats are to be subtracted from the normal board membership to determine the actual membership.

"Sec. 2.8. Qualifications for office; vacancies; compensation. The compensation of board members, the filling of vacancies for any elective office, and the qualifications of board members shall be in accordance with applicable provisions of the General Statutes.

"Sections 2.9 through 2.15. (Reserved.)

"ARTICLE III.

"ELECTIONS.

"Sec. 3.1. Regular municipal elections; conduct and method of election. Regular municipal elections shall be held in the town every four years in odd-numbered years and shall be conducted in accordance with the uniform municipal election laws of North Carolina. The mayor and members of the board of aldermen shall be elected according to the nonpartisan plurality method of elections as set forth in G.S. 163-279(a)(1) and the applicable provisions of Articles 23 and 24 of Chapter 163 of the General Statutes.

"Sec. 3.2. Election of the mayor and board of aldermen. At the regular municipal elections in 1979 and quadrennially thereafter, there shall be elected a mayor and three aldermen to fill the seats of those officers whose terms are then expiring.

"Sections 3.3 through 3.10. (Reserved.)

"ARTICLE IV.

"ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

"Sec. 4.1 Form of government. The town shall operate under the mayor-council form of government, in accordance with Part 3 of Article 7 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.

"Sec. 4.2. Town Attorney. The board of aldermen shall appoint a town attorney who shall be licensed to engage in the practice of law in the State of North Carolina. It shall be the duty of the town attorney to prosecute and defend suits against the town; to advise the mayor, board of aldermen and other town officials with respect to the affairs of the town; to draft all legal documents relating to the affairs of the town; to inspect and pass upon all agreements, contracts, franchises and other instruments with which the town may be concerned; to attend meetings of the board of aldermen; and to perform other duties required by law or as the board of aldermen may direct.

"Sec. 4.3. Town clerk. The board of aldermen shall appoint a town clerk to keep a journal of the proceedings of the board, to maintain in a safe place all records and documents pertaining to the affairs of the town, and to perform other duties required by law or as the board of aldermen may direct.

"Sec. 4.4. Town finance officer. The board of aldermen shall appoint a town finance officer to perform the duties of the finance officer as required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

"Sec. 4.5. Town budget officer. The board of aldermen shall appoint a town budget officer to perform the duties of the budget officer as required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

"Sec. 4.6. Town tax collector. The board of aldermen shall appoint a town tax collector to collect all taxes, licenses, fees and other moneys belonging to the town, subject to the General Statutes, the provisions of this charter and the ordinances of the town. The town tax collector shall diligently comply with and enforce all the laws of North Carolina relating to the collection of taxes by municipalities.

"Sec. 4.7. Consolidation of functions. The board of aldermen may consolidate any two or more positions of town clerk, town tax collector, town budget officer and town finance officer, or may assign the functions of any one or more of these positions to the holder or holders of any other of these positions, subject to the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

"Sec. 4.8. Other administrative officers and employees. Consistent with applicable State laws, the board of aldermen may establish positions, provide for the appointment of other administrative officers and employees, and generally organize the town government in order to promote the orderly and efficient administration of the affairs of the town.

"Sections 4.9. through 4.15. (Reserved.)

"ARTICLE V.

"SPECIAL PROVISIONS.

"Sec. 5.1. Street improvements; assessment of costs. In addition to any authority which is now or may hereafter be granted by general law to the town for making street improvements, the board of aldermen is hereby authorized to make street improvements and to assess the cost thereof against abutting property owners in accordance with the provisions of Sections 5.1 through 5.6 herein.

"Sec. 5.2. When petition unnecessary. The board of aldermen may order street improvements and assess the cost thereof against the abutting property owners, exclusive of the costs incurred at street intersections, according to one or more of the assessment bases set forth in Article 10 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes, without the necessity of a petition, upon the finding by the board as a fact:

- (a) that the street improvement project does not exceed 1,200 linear feet, and
- (b) that such street or part thereof is unsafe for vehicular traffic, and it is in the public interest to make such improvement, or
- (c) that it is in the public interest to connect two streets, or portions of a street already improved, or
- (d) that it is in the public interest to widen a street, or part thereof which is already improved; provided, that assessments for widening any street or portion of street without a petition shall be limited to the cost of widening and otherwise improving such street in accordance with the street improvement standards established by the town's street plan for the particular street or part thereof to be widened and improved under the authority granted by this Article.

"Sec. 5.3. Street improvement defined. For the purposes of this Article, the term 'street improvement' shall include grading, regrading, surfacing, resurfacing, widening, paving, repaving, the acquisition of right-of-way, and the construction or reconstruction of curbs, gutters and street drainage facilities.

"Sec. 5.4. Sidewalks; assessment of costs. In addition to any authority which is now or may hereafter be granted by general law to the town for making sidewalk improvements, the board of aldermen is hereby authorized, without the necessity of a petition, to make or to order to be made sidewalk improvements or repairs according to standards and specifications of the town, and to assess the total cost thereof against abutting property owners, according to one or more of the assessment bases set forth in Article 10 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes; provided, however, that regardless of the assessment basis or bases employed, the board of aldermen may order the cost of sidewalk improvements made only on one side of a street to be assessed against property owners abutting both sides of such street.

"Sec. 5.5. Assessment procedure. In ordering street and sidewalk improvements without a petition and assessing the cost thereof under authority of this Article, the board of aldermen shall comply with the procedure provided by Article 10, Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, except those provisions relating to the petition of property owners and the sufficiency thereof.

"Sec. 5.6. Effect of assessments. The effect of the act of levying assessments under the authority of this Article shall for all purposes be the same as if the assessments were levied under authority of Article 10 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.

"Sections 5.7 through 5.15. (Reserved.)"

Sec. 2. The purpose of this act is to revise the Charter of the Town of Hazelwood and to consolidate herein certain acts concerning the property, affairs, and government of the town. It is intended to continue without interruption those provisions of prior acts which are consolidated into this act, so that all rights and liabilities that have accrued are preserved and may be enforced.

Sec. 3. This act shall not be deemed to repeal, modify, or in manner affect any of the following acts, portions of acts, or amendments thereto, whether or not such acts, portions of acts, or amendments are expressly set forth herein:

- (a) any acts concerning the property, affairs, or government of public schools in the Town of Hazelwood;
- (b) any acts validating, confirming, approving, or legalizing official proceedings, actions, contracts, or obligations of any kind.

Sec. 4. The following acts or portions of acts, having served the purposes for which they were enacted, or having been consolidated into this act are hereby repealed:

Chapter 91, Private Laws 1905
Chapter 169, Private Laws 1913
Chapter 317, Private Laws 1913, Sections 1 and 3-10
Chapter 106, Private Laws 1915
Chapter 85, Private Laws Ex. 1921
Chapter 123, Private Laws 1921
Chapter 138, Private Laws Ex. 1921
Chapter 143, Private Laws 1921
Chapter 116, Private Laws 1929
Chapter 97, Private Laws 1933
Chapter 159, Private Laws 1933
Chapter 874, S.L. 1945
Chapter 603, S.L. 1951
Chapter 1005, S.L. 1955

Sec. 5. No provision of this act is intended, nor shall be construed, to affect in any way any rights or interests (whether public or private):

- (a) now vested or accrued, in whole or in part, the validity of which might be sustained or preserved by reference to any provisions of law repealed by this act;
- (b) derived from, or which might be sustained or preserved in reliance upon, action heretofore taken pursuant to or within the scope of any provisions of law repealed by this act.

Sec. 6. No law heretofore repealed expressly or by implication, and no law granting authority which has been exhausted, shall be revived by:

- (a) the repeal herein of any act repealing such law, or
- (b) any provision of this act that disclaims an intention to repeal or affect enumerated or designated laws.

Sec. 7. (a) All existing ordinances and resolutions of the Town of Hazelwood and all existing rules or regulations of departments or agencies of the Town of

Hazelwood not inconsistent with the provisions of this act, shall continue in full force and effect until repealed, modified or amended.

(b) No action or proceeding of any nature (whether civil or criminal, judicial or administrative, or otherwise) pending at the effective date of this act by or against the Town of Hazelwood or any of its departments or agencies shall be abated or otherwise affected by the adoption of this act.

Sec. 8. If any of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this act are declared to be severable.

Sec. 9. Whenever a reference is made in this act to a particular provision of the General Statutes, and such provision is later amended, repealed or superseded, the reference shall be deemed amended to refer to the amended General Statute, or to the General Statute which most clearly corresponds to the statutory provision which is repealed or superseded.

Sec. 10. All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 11. This act shall become effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 18th day of April, 1977.