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ARTICLE VI. - ELECTIONS

Sec. 6.1. - Mayor-Commissioner and Commissioners; term of office; election; transition.

(1)

Beginning with the regular election to be held on the second Tuesday in the month of March, 2008, and every two (2) years thereafter, a Mayor-Commissioner shall be elected for a term of two (2) years until his successor is elected and qualifies.

(2)

Commencing with the regular election of the Town held in March, 2006, and continuing with successive elections at intervals of four years, candidates may qualify for the offices of Town Commissioner Seat 1 and Town Commissioner Seat 2, each elected at large. Town Commission Seat 1 and Town Commission Seat 2 shall replace the two Commission seats vacated by the expiration of the term of the two Commissioners in March, 2006. The candidate for Seat 1 shall reside in the north district of the Town. The candidate for Seat 2 shall reside in the south district of the Town. The candidates receiving the most votes for each seat shall be elected, and shall serve a term of four (4) years.

(3)

Commencing with the regular election of the Town held in March, 2008, and continuing with successive elections at intervals of four years, candidates may qualify for the offices of Town Commission Seat 3 and Town Commissioner Seat 4. Town Commission Seat 3 and Town Commission Seat 4 shall replace the two Commission seats vacated by the expiration of the term of two Commissioners in March of 2008. The candidate for Seat 3 shall reside in the north district of the Town. The candidate for Seat 4 shall reside in the south district of the Town. The candidates receiving the most votes for each seat shall be elected, and shall serve a term of four years.

(4)

All elections for the position of Town Commissioner or Mayor-Commissioner shall be held on the second Tuesday of March of each even-numbered year, or as provided for by law.

(5)

The geographic boundary for the northern and southern districts shall be designated, prepared and identified no later than the first of September, 2004, and again in 2012 through a contract entered into by the Town with an accredited four (4) year college or university located within the state of Florida for the purpose of identifying and designating the northern and southern election districts within the Town. The Town Commission district

boundaries shall be of equal population, compact, proportional, and logically related to the natural internal boundaries of the neighborhoods within the Town. The principal of nondiscrimination and one person/one vote shall be adhered to strictly.

(6)

In the event no candidate qualifies for election for any designated Town Commission seat within the first ten (10) calendar days of the qualifying period, then any qualified person who resides anywhere in the Town may qualify for such seat. Thereafter, if no person qualifies for such seat, a vacancy shall be declared and filled in accordance with this Charter.

(7)

The Town Commission shall adopt by Ordinance the creation and establishment of the boundaries of the initial northern and southern Town Commission seat districts no later than January 1, 2005. The Ordinance shall provide for the implementation of said election districts to be effective for the elections to be held in the Town commencing in March, 2006.

Sec. 6.2. - Vice Mayor and acting Mayor Pro-Tem.

On the second Tuesday following each regular election, one (1) member of the Town Commission may be designated, by resolution, as Vice Mayor to preside in the absence of the Mayor-Commissioner. In the event that the designated Mayor-Commissioner and the Vice Mayor are absent at any meeting of the Town Commission, any member of the Town Commission may be designated by the Town Commission to act as Mayor Pro-Tem for such meeting.

Sec. 6.3. - Qualifications of members of Town Commission.

(1)

To be eligible to hold the office of Mayor-Commissioner or Commissioner of the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, or to qualify for candidacy for Mayor-Commissioner or Commissioner, the individual shall be a bona fide resident and citizen of the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, shall have resided in the said town for the six (6) months immediately preceding the date of election, shall be a registered voter pursuant to Florida law, and shall be otherwise qualified as provided for in the Charter.

(2)

No person may be a candidate for Commissioner, nor may be appointed to fill a vacancy as a Commissioner, if that person has served during both of the two preceding consecutive Commission terms for that seat as a Commissioner or a Mayor-Commissioner or both, without a two year break in service.

- (3) No person may be a candidate for Mayor-Commissioner, nor may be appointed to fill a vacancy as the Mayor-Commissioner, if that person has served during each of the three preceding consecutive Mayor-Commissioner terms as a Mayor-Commissioner.
- (4) Service of one year or less of a term by a person who had not previously served as either a Commissioner or Mayor-Commissioner shall not be considered for purposes of term limits.
- (5) Service for purposes of term limits shall be determined as of the time the person would take office.

Sec. 6.4. - Qualifications of candidates; notice of candidacy; payment of fee.

Any individual who possesses the qualifications as provided in this Charter, may be a candidate for the office of Mayor-Commissioner or Commissioner by filing a verified notice of candidacy for Town Commission with the Town Clerk. Such notice shall be in the following form:

NOTICE OF CANDIDACY FOR
TOWN COMMISSIONER OR MAYOR-COMMISSIONER

I, _____ (Name of Candidate) _____, residing at _____
(Residence Address of Candidate) _____ / _____ / _____,
Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Broward County, Florida, do hereby give notice of my candidacy for the office of Town Commissioner/Mayor-Commissioner of the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea, Florida, in the forthcoming election to be held in said Town on _____ (Date of Primary) _____. I do further state that I am a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea; that I have resided in the Town of Lauderdale-By-The-Sea for the six (6) months immediately preceding the date of the election to be held; and that I have fully satisfied all conditions precedent to such candidacy, pursuant to the provisions of the laws of the State of Florida and the Town Charter.

(Candidate's Signature)

STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF BROWARD

Before me, the undersigned authority, this day personally appeared _____
(Name of Candidate) _____ who, upon being duly sworn, deposed and said: that he/she is the candidate referred to in the foregoing Notice; that he/she is familiar with the contents of said Notice, and that the facts and matters therein stated are true; and that he/she did sign said Notice for the purpose therein specified.

(Candidate)

Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the _____ day of
_____/_____/_____, 20_____.

Notary Public, State of Florida

My commission expires: _____

The individual who files the notice as prescribed, and who pays the qualifying fee as prescribed, if otherwise found to be qualified, shall be entitled to have his/her name printed upon the official ballot at such town election.

Sec. 6.5. - Vacancies.

The office of a Commissioner, or the office of the Mayor-Commissioner, shall become vacant upon the person's death, resignation, removal from office in any manner authorized by law, or forfeiture of the office, such forfeiture to be declared by the remaining members of the Town Commission.

Sec. 6.6. - Forfeiture of office.

A Commission member, or the Mayor-Commissioner, shall forfeit the office if the person:

(1)

Lacks, at any time during a term of office, any qualification for the office prescribed by this Charter or general law;

(2)

Violates any standard of conduct or code of ethics established by law for public officials;

(3)

Is convicted of a felony while in office;

(4)

Fails to attend four (4) consecutive regular meetings of the Town Commission without being excused by the Town Commission by formal action entered upon the minutes; or

(5)

Becomes incapable of performing the duties of the office for a period of more than three (3) months.

In all circumstances arising under this section, the Town Commission shall be the judge of its own membership.

Sec. 6.7. - Forfeiture hearing and process.

A member of the Town Commission charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of his office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand, and notice of such hearing shall be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the Town at least thirty days before the scheduled hearing. The Town Commission shall be the sole judge of the qualifications of its members and shall hear all questions relating to forfeiture of a Commissioner's or Mayor-Commissioner's office, including whether or not good cause for absence has been, or may be, established. The Commissioner in question shall have the burden of establishing good cause for absence; provided, however, that any Commissioner may at any time during any duly held meeting move to establish good cause for his or her absence or the absence of any other Commissioner, from any past, present, or future meeting(s), which motion, if carried, shall be conclusive. A Commissioner whose qualifications are in question, or who is otherwise subject to forfeiture of his/her office, shall not vote on any such matters. Any final determination by the Town Commission that a Commissioner or the Mayor-Commissioner has forfeited his or her office shall be made by resolution approved by a unanimous vote of the remaining members of the Town Commission. All votes and other acts of the Commissioner in question prior to the effective date of such resolution shall be valid regardless of the grounds of forfeiture.

Sec. 6.8. - Filling of vacancies.

A vacancy on the Town Commission, including the office of Mayor-Commissioner, shall be filled in the following manner:

(1)

If there are less than one hundred eighty (180) days remaining in the unexpired term, or if there are less than one hundred eighty (180) days before the next federal, state, county or Town election, the remaining Commissioners, including the Mayor-Commissioner, shall, by majority vote, appoint a successor within thirty (30) days of the occurrence of the vacancy from among all qualified applicants. The person or persons so appointed must possess all of the required qualifications to be a member of the Town Commission. The Commissioner or Mayor-Commissioner appointed by the Town Commission to fill the vacancy as specified herein shall serve only until the next federal, state, county, or Town election. Further, the Commissioner or Mayor-Commissioner elected at such election shall serve only the unexpired term of the Commissioner or Mayor-Commissioner whose position became vacant.

(2)

If there are more than one hundred eighty (180) days remaining on an unexpired term, or if there are more than one hundred eighty (180) days before the next federal, state, county, or Town election, the Town Commission shall schedule a special election to be held no sooner than

ninety (90) days nor more than one hundred twenty (120) days following the occurrence of the vacancy. The Commissioner or Mayor-Commissioner elected to fill the vacancy at any special election shall serve only the unexpired term of the Commissioner of Mayor-Commissioner whose position became vacant.

(3)

In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of the Mayor-Commissioner, the Vice Mayor shall forthwith commence to serve as interim Mayor-Commissioner until the position of Mayor-Commissioner is filled by election or appointment. When the Vice Mayor becomes interim Mayor-Commissioner, the Town Commission, by majority vote shall appoint one of the remaining Commissioners to become interim Vice Mayor. The Commissioner serving as Mayor-Commissioner, or the Vice Mayor, shall serve as Commission-Mayor, or Vice Mayor, until the newly elected or appointed Commissioner-Mayor, or Vice Mayor, is sworn into office. The interim Mayor-Commissioner, and interim Vice Mayor shall then return to the positions of Vice Mayor and Commissioner which he/she previously held to serve the remainder of his or her unexpired term.

(4)

In the event of the death, resignation, or removal of the Vice Mayor, the Town Commission shall, by majority vote, elect one of the Commissioners to serve as Vice Mayor.

Sec. 6.9. - Extraordinary vacancies.

In the event that all members of the Town Commission are removed by death, disability, or forfeiture of office, the Governor of the State of Florida shall appoint an interim Town Commission that shall call a special election as provided above to fill the vacancies.