

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF CAMDEN, TENNESSEE<sup>1</sup>

## CHAPTER 350.

Senate Bill No. 614.

AN ACT to incorporate the City of Camden, in Benton County, and to define its rights and powers.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
1. INCORPORATION, NAME, AND GENERAL POWERS . . .	C-2
2. CORPORATE LIMITS . . . . .	C-3
2a. CORPORATE LIMITS EXTENDED . . . . .	C-4
3. SUCCESSORS TO CORPORATE PROPERTY . . . . .	C-5
4. OFFICERS . . . . .	C-5
5. COUNCIL TO ELECT RECORDER, CHIEF OF POLICE, ETC. . . . .	C-6
6. POWERS OF COUNCIL . . . . .	C-6

---

<sup>1</sup>Priv. Acts 1903, ch. 350, is the current basic charter act for the City of Camden, Tennessee. The text of the basic charter act set out herein includes all its amendments through the 2017 session of the Tennessee General Assembly. Sections of the charter which have been amended contain at the end of those sections the citation to the official private act or acts constituting the amendment or amendments. No other changes have been made in the charter except the addition of a table of contents to facilitate its use. A list of all the private acts including the basic charter appears at the end of the charter.

Acts of a temporary nature with no general or continuing application, such as bond authorization and validation acts have not been included in this compilation.

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
7. ELECTIONS .....	C-9
8. QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS .....	C-9
9. TERMS OF OFFICERS .....	C-10
10. ELECTION OFFICERS TO BE SWORN, ETC. ....	C-11
11. CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION .....	C-11
12. QUORUM FOR CITY COUNCIL .....	C-11
13. DUTIES OF MAYOR .....	C-12
14. DUTIES OF THE RECORDER .....	C-12
15. DUTIES OF THE MARSHAL .....	C-13
16. OFFICERS TO GIVE BOND .....	C-14
17. DELINQUENT TAXES .....	C-14
18. LIABILITY OF RECORDER & MARSHAL FOR TAXES ..	C-15
19. FRANCHISES .....	C-15
20. CHARTER TO BE RECEIVED AS EVIDENCE .....	C-15
21. EFFECTIVE DATE .....	C-15

SECTION 1

INCORPORATION, NAME, AND GENERAL POWERS

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee, That the City of Camden and the inhabitants thereof be, and they are hereby, constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Camden, and have perpetual succession; that by its corporate name and style it may sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with, grant, receive, purchase and hold real, mixed and personal property, and dispose of the same for the benefit of said city, and may have and use an official seal.

## SECTION 2

CORPORATE LIMITS<sup>1</sup>

Be it further enacted by, The corporate limits of the said City of Camden shall be as follows:

Beginning on a stake in the east margin of U.S. highway No. 70, the same being a corner of the present corporate limits of the City of Camden and being the south of Lockhart Motor Court, runs thence with the fence at foot hills north, 85° east 280 feet, north 57° east 313 feet; south 81° east 790 feet, north 48° 30' east 990 feet to the west bank of Charlie Creek; thence in a northerly direction along the west bank of Charlie Creek 2250 feet to a stake on the west bank of Charlie Creek, the same being 300 feet south of the Eva road; thence in an easterly direction 300 feet south of and parallel to the Eva road 2905 feet to a stake; thence north 49° 15' east 600 feet to a stake, 300 feet north of the Eva road; thence in a westerly direction 300 feet north of and parallel to the Eva road 3050 feet to a stake on the west bank of Charlie Creek; thence in a northerly direction along the west bank of Charlie Creek 6050 feet to the northeast corner of the O.P. Lashlee Park property; thence in a westerly direction with the north boundary line of said Lashlee Park property to a stake in the existing corporate line 20 rods east of 69 highway; thence in a northwesterly direction and parallel to said 69 highway and at all points a distance of 330 feet east therefrom to a stake opposite the northeast corner of the Robert Armstrong Subdivision of the Alice Farmer 12 acre tract of land; thence in a westerly direction crossing said highway 69 to the northeast corner of said Robert Armstrong Subdivision, the same being the southeast corner of the land of Sidney Melton; thence with the north boundary line of said Subdivision in a westerly direction 900 feet to a stake, same being the northwest corner of said Subdivision and in the east boundary line of the Todd land; thence with the west boundary line of said Subdivision south 300 feet to the north margin of the Eggville road; thence with the north margin of said Eggville road in an easterly direction to a stake in the north margin of Eggville road, 330 feet west of 69 highway; thence in a southeasterly and southerly direction and parallel to said 69 highway and at all points a distance of 330 feet therefrom to a stake opposite the northwest corner of the Lashlee Park property; thence with a line on a bearing of approximately south 62° west 4000 feet, running north of the residence of J.S. Orr to a stake in Lester Cowell's property; thence with a line running west of Lester Cowell's residence south 9° 15' west 2060 feet to a stake; thence south 3° 45' east 1500 feet to a stake; thence south 41° 45' west

---

<sup>1</sup>These corporate boundaries have been amended by annexation ordinances of record in the recorder's office.

340 feet to a stake on the east bank of Cain Creek; thence in a southeasterly direction along the east bank of Cain Creek 630 feet to a stake 300 feet south of U.S. highway 70; thence in an easterly direction and 300 feet south of and parallel to U.S. highway 70, 910 feet to a stake, original southwest corner of the new cemetery addition; thence south  $7^{\circ} 30'$  east 300 feet to a stake, the southwest corner of new cemetery addition; thence north  $83^{\circ}$  east 370 feet to a concrete marker at the southeast corner of the new Camden cemetery addition; thence with the boundary line of the original cemetery south, east and north to a stake in the east boundary line of said original cemetery, a distance of 300 feet from the south margin of U.S. highway 70; thence east and parallel to said U.S. highway 70 to a stake 300 feet south of the south margin of said highway 70, and 300 feet west of the west margin of the street between the residences of McDaniel and Lashlee; thence south, parallel with said street, 462 feet to a stake; thence south  $72^{\circ}$  east 346 feet to a stake 330 feet west of the west margin of High Street; thence in a southerly direction and parallel to High Street and at all points a distance of 330 feet west of High Street passing over 69 highway about 400 feet west of Dick Loveall's residence, continuing on same bearing across the N.C. & St. L. Railroad to the south right of way line of said railroad; thence east with the south right of way line of said railroad 3877 feet to a point in said right of way just south of the junction of the old railroad bed in U.S. highway 70; thence due north 247 feet to U.S. highway 70; thence with the east margin of said highway 70 north  $58^{\circ}$  west 198 feet; thence north  $45^{\circ}$  west 1221 feet to the point of beginning. [As replaced by Priv. Acts 1907, ch. 211; Priv. Acts 1909, ch. 533, § 1; Priv. Acts 1915, ch. 80; Priv. Acts 1921, ch. 745; Priv. Acts 1927, ch. 334; Priv. Acts 1927, ch. 417; Priv. Acts 1929, ch. 733; Priv. Acts 1945, ch. 580; and Priv. Acts 1951, ch. 272]

## SECTION 2a

### CORPORATE LIMITS EXTENDED

Beginning at a point in the existing northeast corporate limits of the City of Camden in the boundary line between the lands of Frances Homes, Inc., and the lands of Aubrey Hudson and runs N.  $84^{\circ} 10'$  E. 562 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of the lands of Frances Homes, Inc.; thence N.  $5^{\circ}$  W. 340 feet to the northeast corner of said Frances Homes, Inc. land; thence S.  $82^{\circ} 30'$  W. 743 feet, more or less, to a point in the existing corporate limits of the City of Camden; thence with said existing corporate line in a southeast direction 340 feet to the beginning. Beginning at a point in the existing southwest corporate limits of the City of Camden on the east bank of Cain creek and in the center of U.S. Highway No. 70, and runs thence with the center of said highway in the southwest direction 179 feet, more or less, to a point opposite the boundary line between the lands of P.E. Tompson and Fred Ballard; thence in a southeast direction to the corner of the lands of P.E. Tompson and Fred Ballard in the

right of way line of said highway; thence S. 53° 08' E. 200 feet to the southeast corner of the land of P.E. Tompson; thence N. 25° 52' E. 160 feet with the boundary line of Tompson and Ballard to the existing corporate line on the east bank of Cain Creek; thence with the said existing corporate line in a northwest direction to the beginning. [As added by Priv. Acts 1953, ch. 103, § 1]

### SECTION 3

#### SUCCESSORS TO CORPORATE PROPERTY

Be it further enacted, That all the real and personal property, and all legal claims, fines and forfeitures belonging to the said City of Camden, the charter of which has been repealed by this General Assembly, shall hereafter belong to the City of Camden in its corporate style, hereby created; that all legal debts, claims and demands now existing against the "Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Camden," the charter of which has been repealed by this General Assembly, shall hereafter belong to the "Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Camden," hereby created, and that all of said claims, debts and demands, now existing against said city, or the Mayor and Aldermen of said city, shall be assumed and paid by the "Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Camden," hereby created. That the City of Camden, in its corporate style, hereby created shall be vested with the title to all the real, mixed and personal property, taxes, claims, debts, fines and forfeitures belonging to the "Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Camden," the charter of which has been repealed by this General Assembly, and shall have full and ample power through its officers and agents to collect, demand, receive, have and to hold all of said property, real, mixed or personal belonging to said City of Camden, or "the Mayor and Aldermen of said City of Camden," the charter of which has been repealed by this General Assembly.

### SECTION 4

#### OFFICERS

That the officers of the City of Camden, to be chosen by the people, shall be a Mayor and a Board of Aldermen, constituting a City Council, each of whom shall be citizens and voters in the city. The Board of Aldermen shall consist of five (5) members chosen by the qualified voters of the city. Any Alderman, or the Mayor, after their election, removing from the city, shall vacate their office. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1917, ch. 694, § 1(1); and replaced by Priv. Acts 2011, ch. 17, § 1]

## SECTION 5

COUNCIL TO ELECT RECORDER, CHIEF OF POLICE, ETC.

After each regular city election the city council shall employ or appoint a Recorder, a Chief of Police and such other officers, servants or agents as they may deem necessary, and shall have power to prescribe the duties of the same. The city council shall also fix the compensation of the Recorder, Chief of Police and other such officers, servants or agents so employed. The city council shall have power to dismiss the Recorder, Chief of Police and any other officer, servant or agent employed by them, a majority of the council concurring in the dismissal for any misdemeanor, neglect of duty, misconduct or inefficiency. [As replaced by Priv. Acts 1959, ch. 307; and Priv. Acts 2011, ch. 17, § 2]

## SECTION 6

POWERS OF COUNCIL

Be it further enacted, That the City Council shall have power by ordinance within the said city:

1. To enact such ordinances, by-laws and regulations as may be necessary to preserve the health, quiet, peace, morals and good order of the city, including such quarantine regulations, not to exceed one mile outside the city limits, as occasion may require, in such ways as not to conflict with the laws of the State.

2. To declare what is a nuisance and to prevent and abate the same.

3. To assess property for taxes, and to levy and collect, by proper officers, taxes upon all real, mixed and personal property, polls and privileges taxable by the laws of the state; provided, that the tax rate for each year shall not exceed Two Dollars on each \$100 valuation on taxable property for general purposes, plus not to exceed 25 cents on each \$100 valuation on taxable property for the special purpose of improving, maintaining and beautifying Camden Cemetery. Provided, however, that the limitations of this subsection shall not be applicable to taxes levied for the purpose of paying principal of or interest on bonds issued or to be issued by the City of Camden under any general law of the State of Tennessee (1) to finance the cost of constructing, improving and extending the Waterworks and Sewer System of said city, but such Waterworks and Sewer bonds shall not exceed the principal amount of \$370,000.00, and (2) to finance the cost of improving streets in and for said City, but such Street Improvement bonds shall not exceed the principal amount of \$150,000.00, (3) to finance the cost of constructing, improving and extending the waterworks and sewer system of said city under the Accelerated Public Works Act, Project Nos. APW-Tenn-10GL and PFL-Tenn-427 and the Area Redevelopment Act, Project

No. AR-Tenn-62.003.1, the total authorized bonds on said projects shall not exceed the principal amount of \$350,000.00.

3. (a)<sup>1</sup> For the purpose of paying the cost, improvement, and maintenance of the public well in said city, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of said city shall have, and they are hereby vested with, the power and authority to levy and collect a special tax on the property and privileges subject to taxation in said city, said special tax not to exceed in any one year twenty-five cents on each one hundred dollars' worth of taxable property, and not exceed in any one year one-fourth of the tax on privileges levied for general corporation purposes.

4. To establish and maintain a public school in and for said corporation, and for this purpose to levy and collect taxes on all property, real, mixed and personal, polls and privileges taxable by the laws of the State; provided, that no levy for school purposes shall be less than seventy-five (75) cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of taxable property, and provided further, that all taxes levied upon polls shall be applied for the maintenance of the public schools of said corporation.

5. To appropriate money and provide for the expenses of the city.

6. To open, alter, abolish, widen, extend, establish, grade, pave or otherwise improve, clean and keep in repair streets, highways, alleys and sidewalks in said corporate limits, or to have the same done; also to erect and keep in repair bridges, sewers and culverts. To require the owners of property fronting on a street or the public square to erect sidewalks, at the expense of the owner, in accordance with such ordinances as the Board of Mayor and Aldermen may provide. And to regulate traffic upon the streets, alleys and highways within the corporate limits of the City of Camden by requiring the registration of motor vehicles, to provide fees for such registration, and to provide for the collection thereof.

7. To provide for the erection of all buildings necessary for the use of the city, and to organize a work-house in or near the said city, and provide for committing and working in said work-house, on the public streets or city works any person who shall fail to pay or secure any fine or cost assessed against them for the violation of any ordinance, or who for such violation may be sentenced to said work-house, and provide for the management and control of the same.

8. To license and tax all privileges taxable by the laws of the State and to levy an annual privilege tax upon passenger automobiles and automobile trucks operating on and over the streets of the City of Camden, and to provide for the collection thereof.

9. To regulate and suppress gaming and gambling houses, disorderly houses, bawdy houses, and houses of ill-fame, or assignation houses, and all houses where one or more men and women meet for lewd purposes, or

---

<sup>1</sup>Section 3 (a) was arbitrarily added by the previous compiler, as Priv. Acts 1913, ch. 5 did not designate a specific section for amendment.

prostitution, or adulterous cohabitation; and they shall have the power to declare all such places nuisances and abate them as such.

10. To prevent and suppress the carrying or sale of all concealed weapons as defined by the laws of the State.

11. To regulate the storage, sale or use of firecrackers and all other fireworks and toy pistols, toy guns and explosives and combustibles.

12. To impose fines, forfeitures and penalties for the breach of ordinances adopted under this Act, and to provide for their recovery, and the arrest of any party or parties breaching said ordinances, and provide for sentence of imprisonment in the city work-house to secure such fines; Provided, that no fine shall exceed fifty (\$50) dollars.

13. To regulate or prohibit the running at large in the streets of horses, cattle, hogs, goats and dogs and other animals.

14. To designate in said city certain districts as fire limits, and provide for the character of houses that may be built in said limits, and to regulate the same.

15. To pass all ordinances necessary for the health, peace, safety, convenience, protection of property and good order of the city, and for the suppression and prohibition of any and all acts and things made criminal by the laws of the State, and to provide a punishment for the breach of the same; Provided, that in cases amounting to felonies, the offender shall be bound over to the Circuit Court of Benton County.

16. To tax, regulate or restrain theatrical or other public amusements, shows and exhibitions within the limits of said city.

17. To restrain, prohibit or regulate horse swapping upon the public square or streets of said city, or the congregating of people for that purpose.

18. To prepare and have published a digest, or compilation of all ordinances of a public nature, in force within six months after this Act takes effect, and a like digest as often as may be deemed necessary.

19. To judge the qualification, election and returns of its own members, to prescribe rules for the determination of contested elections, to determine how vacancies shall be filled and to determine all questions in case of ties in any election and to prescribe rules for the government of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

20. To require all male citizens within said city between the ages of 18 and 45 years to work five days upon the streets of the city, or in lieu thereof commute said work by paying not less than one dollar per day for each day not worked, unless previously released by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen on account of physical inability to perform manual labor.



21.<sup>1</sup> To elect a Board consisting of three (3) members to be known as the Cemetery Improvement Board, who shall be of lawful age and residents of the City of Camden, to have charge and supervision of the improvement, maintenance and beautification of the Camden Cemetery. Members of the original Board shall be R.L. Odle, Chairman, who is hereby appointed to serve until July 1, 1950; E.L. McCullough, who is hereby appointed to serve until July 1, 1949; and R.L. Davis, who is hereby appointed to serve until July 1, 1948. Successors to the above named members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Camden, for three (3) year terms, except in case of vacancy, in which case the election shall be for the unexpired term. Said Board shall have the right and is hereby authorized to expend for the improvement, maintenance, and beautification of said Camden Cemetery, such amounts as may be made available to it for said purposes by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Camden as a result of taxes levied and collected under Section 1 of this Act. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1909, ch. 553, § 2; Priv. Acts 1917, ch. 694, § 1(2); Priv. Acts 1919, ch. 207; Priv. Acts 1935, ch. 373, § 1; Priv. Acts 1945, ch. 608; Priv. Acts 1947, ch. 472; Priv. Acts 1947, ch. 849; Priv. Acts 1951, ch. 271; Priv. Acts 1953, ch. 103, § 2; Priv. Acts 1959, ch. 137; Priv. Acts 1959, ch. 306; and Priv. Acts 1963, ch. 228]

## SECTION 7

### ELECTIONS

Elections for the City of Camden shall be conducted as provided by general law in June, 2011 and June, 2013. All city elections after June, 2013 shall be held as provided by general law at the regular November election held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in every even-numbered year. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1935, ch. 373, § 2; and replaced by Priv. Acts 1973, ch. 20; and Priv. Acts 2011, ch. 17, § 3]

## SECTION 8

### QUALIFICATION OF VOTERS

The election shall be held by the county election commission as provided by the general laws of this state. Any person qualified to vote in Benton County, Tennessee, for state and county officers and who has been a resident of the City of Camden at least six (6) months next preceeding the election, or be the owner

---

<sup>1</sup>Priv. Acts 1917, ch. 694 added subsection 20 to § 6 of this charter. The compiler, therefore, renumbered this subsection number 21 as added by Priv. Acts 1947, ch. 472.

of real estate within said city limits for at least six (6) months, shall be entitled to vote in all elections.<sup>1</sup> [As amended by Priv. Acts 1935, ch. 373, § 3; and replaced by Priv. Acts 1973, ch. 20]

## SECTION 9

### TERMS OF OFFICERS

In order to increase the participation of the voters in municipal elections and to save considerable expense for the taxpayers of the City of Camden, after the city election in June, 2013, city elections shall be held at the regular general election in November of even-numbered years.

The two (2) candidates for Alderman receiving the most votes in the June, 2011, election shall be elected to a term expiring the first Monday in December, 2014. The candidate for Alderman receiving the third highest number of votes in the June, 2011, election shall be elected to a term expiring the first Monday in July, 2013. The term of the Mayor elected at the June, 2011, election shall expire the first Monday in December, 2014. The terms of the three (3) Aldermen elected at the June, 2013, election shall expire the first Monday in December, 2016.

The terms of the officers elected In June, 2011, and June, 2013, shall begin on the first Monday in July following their election, after the November, 2014, election the terms of all officers of the City of Camden shall begin on the first Monday in December following their election for a term of four (4) years and they shall hold office as hereinafter provided and until their successors are elected and qualified.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen shall receive compensation for their services. The rate of compensation shall be set by the Board and may be paid on a per diem, monthly, or other basis. Provided, however, neither the compensation of the Mayor nor any other member of the Board of Aldermen shall be altered until the end of their term to which that member was elected. [As replaced by Priv. Acts 1973, ch. 20; and amended by Priv. Acts 1973, ch. 69;

---

<sup>1</sup>Ordinance EWJ-05122014-01 dated June 9, 2014 provides that "all persons residing outside the corporate limits of the Town of Camden who own real property within the corporate limits of the Town of Camden and who are entitled to vote in the Town of Camden municipal elections pursuant to the Camden Charter and other general law requirements, shall cast their ballot in the Town of Camden municipal elections by absentee by mail ballots."

Priv. Acts 1981, ch. 7; and Priv. Acts 1998, ch. 147; and replaced by Priv. Acts 2011, ch. 17, § 4]

## SECTION 10

### ELECTION OFFICERS TO BE SWORN

Be it further enacted, That the judges and clerks to hold the elections prescribed by this Act, shall be sworn and qualified, according to the election laws of the State, and said election shall be conducted in all respects in compliance with the election laws of the State. The judges and clerks shall preserve the ballots cast in said elections and file the same, together with the poll lists, with the City Recorder, who shall preserve the same.

## SECTION 11

### CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

Be it further enacted, That the person receiving the highest number of votes respectively for Mayor and Aldermen, shall be declared elected, and it shall be the duty of the officer holding said election to make out and deliver to the Recorder a certificate of the election within three days after their election, which certificate shall be produced at the first meeting of the Board, and a minute thereof shall be made upon the records of the city, and if the Marshal fail to hold said election at the time herein mentioned, it shall be his duty to hold it as soon thereafter as may be, after giving the regular notice, and for failure to hold said election, as prescribed in this Act, he shall forfeit and pay to said corporation the sum of \$25.00, to be recovered by action of debt in the name of Camden, and if there be no Marshal, or he be a candidate for any office, or incompetent for any reason, the election shall be held by a person to be appointed by the Mayor and Aldermen, under the same regulations and penalties as herein before prescribed.

## SECTION 12

### QUORUM FOR CITY COUNCIL

Be it further enacted, That a majority of the City Council shall be a quorum to do business, and if the Mayor or any of the Aldermen, or any officer should die, resign or move away, the vacancy shall be supplied by the Council at its next meeting, or as soon thereafter as may be, and the person or persons so elected shall perform the same duty and be vested with the same powers and privileges as the person whose place they are appointed to fill, and upon like conditions. The Mayor and Aldermen and all other officers of said corporation

shall, respectively, take and subscribe to an oath before some person competent to administer an oath, to perform and execute the duties of his office faithfully and impartially, and also to support the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Tennessee.

## SECTION 13

### DUTIES OF MAYOR

The Mayor shall hold office until a successor shall be elected and qualified. A vacancy in the office of Mayor shall be filled by the Board of Aldermen. The Mayor shall fill all vacancies arising in any office, except that of Aldermen, until the same be filled by the Council. It shall be the duty of the Mayor to preside at all meetings of the Council, to vote in the election of all officers of the city, and in all cases where it is a tie vote. All ordinances and resolutions shall be approved and signed by the Mayor, on or before the next meeting of the Council, and the Mayor shall have veto power, and if he shall refuse to approve an ordinance or resolution he shall return the same to the Council at its next meeting, with his reasons in writing for his refusal, and said ordinance or resolution shall not be valid unless the Council by a two-thirds vote pass the same notwithstanding the Mayor's veto; but if the Mayor does not veto the same as provided, it shall be valid without his signature. The Mayor shall also take care that all the ordinances of the city are fully enforced, respected and observed, within the city limits; shall call special sessions of the Council when he may deem it expedient, and to perform all such other duties as the City Council may, by ordinance or otherwise, impose upon him. That when the Recorder is absent, out of city or incapacitated to act, the Mayor shall have and is hereby vested with all the powers of the Recorder in criminal cases as vested in the Recorder by Section 14 of said Act. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1953, ch. 103, § 3; and Priv. Acts 2011, ch. 17, § 5]

## SECTION 14

### DUTIES OF RECORDER

Be it further enacted, That the Recorder of said city be and he is hereby vested with all the powers of a Justice of the Peace in criminal cases, and shall try all offenses against the peace and dignity of the City of Camden; Provided, however, that a change of venue may be had in any case when affidavit is made by the accused and at least one disinterested party, that justice in their opinion will not be meted out by the Recorder, to any Alderman of the City of Camden, who is hereby authorized to try and decide such case. In the event an appeal is taken from any fine imposed by the Recorder or Aldermen of said city for any violation of any of its ordinances to the Circuit Court at Camden, the person so

appealing shall give bond and security for the payment of said fine and all cost, and to abide by and perform the judgment of the Court on appeal. The Recorder shall keep an accurate minute of all the proceedings of the City Council, issue privilege license and collect the taxes on the same. He shall collect all special taxes levied by the City Council, and shall keep a proper ledger account of the same; he shall make out the city tax book and turn the same over to the Marshal for collection, taking his receipt therefor under the State laws regulating the assessing of all State and county taxes; he shall act as Treasurer, receive from the City Marshal, receipt, take care of and keep proper accounts of all funds of whatever nature that may come into his hands. For such purposes he shall keep such book or books as the City Council may direct. He shall make out and present quarterly, or oftener, if required by the Council, a full and explicit account, and report all finances of the city, which report the Council may order published for the information of the city; he shall perform such other duties pertaining to his office as the City Council may provide. The Recorder of said city shall make and publish in at least one issue of a County paper in said city a semi-annual itemized sworn statement of the income and expenditures of said city for the six months preceding the making of said statement; that said statement shall be dated the 1st day of July and January respectively and before the publication of said itemized sworn statement it shall be the duty of, and said Board of Mayor and Aldermen is required to examine said statement and attest its correctness.<sup>1</sup>

In the event the mayor and aldermen determine that the city recorder is not able to perform all of the duties herein set out, such city council may, by ordinance, provide for the office of city judge and appoint someone to perform the duties thereof. All the power heretofore granted the recorder will be vested in such city judge. [As amended by Priv. Acts 1919, ch. 207, § 3; and Priv. Acts 1973, ch. 154]

## SECTION 15

### DUTIES OF MARSHAL

Be it further enacted, That the Marshal of said city shall acquaint himself thoroughly with the laws, ordinances of the city, and it shall be his duty to rigidly enforce the same, for which purpose police authority is hereby given him, which he may exercise without warrant in hand. He shall collect all taxes levied by the Council except privileges and special taxes, and perform such other duties

---

<sup>1</sup>Priv. Acts 1919, ch. 207, § 3, amended the Camden charter by adding the provisions of this last sentence, but it failed to specify what section to amend. The previous compiler arbitrarily placed it here.

as the City Council may by ordinances impose upon him. He shall have power to execute State warrants and other process that Constables generally have within the city limits. He shall be chief of any police organized within the corporation, he shall collect all fines, and forfeitures imposed by the Recorder, or other moneys due said city, except taxes on privileges and special taxes. He shall be liable upon his bond for failing to collect money, to return process, or pay over money collected by process, issued by the Recorder or Aldermen. He shall pay over to the Recorder within thirty (30) days all money collected by him belonging to said corporation. He shall render, monthly, statements of the finances collected by him.

## SECTION 16

### OFFICERS TO GIVE BOND

Be it further enacted, That before entering upon the discharge of their duties, the Mayor, Recorder and Marshal shall enter into bond with good sureties, and in such amounts as may be fixed by the Council, conditioned upon the faithful discharge of their duties and upon diligent collection and faithful account for all moneys that shall or ought to come into their hands for fines, forfeitures or other moneys due said city and which ought, by law, to be collected and paid over by them. And the said Marshal shall be liable as herein mentioned for failing to collect money, to return process, or pay over money collected by process issued by the Recorder or Aldermen. Said bonds shall be filed with the Recorder and carefully preserved among the records of the city. Said bonds shall be made payable to Camden, or its Treasurer, for the use and benefit of said city.

## SECTION 17

### DELINQUENT TAXES

Be it further enacted, That when any tax or duty shall be levied or imposed by said corporation, upon any real estate lying within said City of Camden, and the owner or owners, occupier or occupiers thereof shall not pay the same, and the city Marshal shall make returns of that fact under oath, that the owner or owners have no personal property within said city upon which to levy or distrain for said tax or duty, it shall be the duty of the Recorder, by and with the advice and with the consent of the Council, to take such steps for the collection of such tax or duties as are or may be provided for by the laws of the State.

## SECTION 18

LIABILITY OF RECORDER & MARSHAL FOR TAXES

Be it further enacted, That if the Recorder or City Marshal of said city shall fail to collect, or after collecting, fail or refuse to pay over any money that either of them received for the use of said city, said Recorder or Marshal, as the case may be, shall be liable to be proceeded against by motion or suit at common law in the Circuit Court of Benton County, or in any other Court having jurisdiction of the person of the Recorder or Marshal, as the case may be, and it shall be the duty of such Court to render up judgment against such delinquent officer and his sureties upon his bond, for the money so received, or that ought to have been collected in the name of Camden, for the use of said corporation; Provided, that if the proceeding is by motion, such officer shall have five (5) days notice thereof.

## SECTION 19

FRANCHISES

Be it further enacted, That the Mayor and Aldermen shall have the power and right to grant franchises to railways and street railways of any kind, gas companies, water companies, electric light companies, telephone companies and such other companies or corporations as in their judgment they may deem proper.

## SECTION 20

CHARTER TO BE RECEIVED AS EVIDENCE

Be it further enacted, That this Act be declared a public law, and may be read in evidence in all the Courts of law and equity, and all ordinances, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, when printed and published by the authority of the Council, shall be received as evidence in all courts and places without further proof, when certified by the Recorder.

## SECTION 21

EFFECTIVE DATE

Be it further enacted, That this Act take effect on the 30th day of May, 1903, the public welfare requiring it.

Passed April 11, 1903.

C-16

ED T. SEAY,  
Speaker of the Senate.

L.D. TYSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Approved April 15, 1903.

JAMES B. FRAZIER,  
Governor.



PRIVATE ACTS COMPRISING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF  
CAMDEN, TENNESSEE

YEAR	CHAPTER	SUBJECT
1903	350	Basic Charter Act.
1907	211	Replaced § 2, boundaries.
1907	417 <sup>1</sup>	Authorized \$10,000 school bond.
1909	553	Replaced § 2, boundaries; and amended § 6 subsection 6, streets.
1911	627 <sup>1</sup>	Authorized a special tax for drilling public well.
1913	5	Amended § 6 by adding subsection 3(a), authorizing a special tax to pay cost of maintaining public well.
1915	80	Replaced § 2, boundaries.
1917	694	Amended § 4, term of mayor and board of aldermen increased to two years; and § 6, added subsection 20 requiring males between 18 and 45 to work on roads.
1919	207	Amended § 6 subsection 3, general corporate and school levy not to exceed \$200; and § 6 subsection 4, school levy not to be less than seventy five cents.
1921	745	Replaced § 2, boundaries.
1927	334	Replaced § 2, boundaries.
1927	417	Replaced § 2, boundaries.
1929	733	Replaced § 2, boundaries.

---

<sup>1</sup>This act has not been included in the foregoing compilation because its purpose and effect are temporary.

---

YEAR	CHAPTER	SUBJECT
1935	373	Replaced § 6 subsection 3, taxes; § 7, regular elections; and § 8 subsection 1, qualification of voters.
1945	580	Replaced § 2, boundaries.
1945	608	Replaced § 6 subsection 3, taxes.
1947	472	Amended § 6 subsection 3, tax for maintaining city cemetery; and § 6 added subsection 21, cemetery improvement board.
1947	849	Amended § 6 subsection 3, tax for maintaining city cemetery.
1951	271	Amended § 6 subsection 8, assessment of privilege tax on motor vehicles.
1951	272	Replaced § 2, boundaries.
1953	103	Amended by adding § 2a, enlarged corporate limits; § 6 subsection 6, streets; and § 13, enlarge powers of mayor in absence of recorder.
1957	238	Not presented to voters and is therefore inoperative.
1959	137	Replaced § 6 subsection 3, taxes.
1959	306	Replaced § 6 subsection 3, taxes.
1959	307	Replaced § 5, council to elect recorder, marshal, etc.
1963	228	Amended § 6, subsection 3, bonds for extending waterworks and sewer system not to exceed \$350,000.
1965	175	Rejected.

---

YEAR	CHAPTER	SUBJECT
1973	20	Replaced § 7, regular election; § 8, qualification of voters; and § 9, staggered term of officers and compensation for board of mayor and aldermen.
1973	69	Amended § 9, staggered terms.
1973	154	Amended § 14, appointment of someone to perform the duties of the city recorder in the event the city recorder cannot perform them.
1981	7	Amended § 9, compensation of the board of mayor and aldermen.
1981	152	No action taken.
1997	7	Amended entire charter changing Town of Camden to City of Camden.
1998	147	Amended § 9, staggered terms.
2011	17	Replaced § 4, officers; § 5, election of recorder, etc.; § 7, elections; § 9, terms; and amended § 13, duties of mayor.