

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO
THE PLAN OF GOVERNMENT –
ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROCEDURAL UPDATES**

CHAPTER 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

- Language change in several sections from terms “urban” and “rural” to “incorporated” and “unincorporated”.
- Language changes in several sections to remove outdated terms (“heretofore”, “thereof”).
- **Section 1.06:** Deletes this section entitled “Indebtedness of the City of Baton Rouge” dealing with outstanding indebtedness in 1949 because this section no longer has any impact or applicability. This section dealt with bonds that were outstanding in 1949. There are no bonds from 1949 still outstanding.
- **Section 1.07:** Deletes this section entitled “Transfer of Property and Obligations” dealing with the transfer of property in 1949 because this section no longer has any impact or applicability. This section dealt with transfer of property from the city to the parish at the time of consolidation of the city-parish government. All property was transferred and this section is no longer necessary.
- **Section 1.08:** Replaces the terms “urban” and “rural” with the terms “incorporated” and “unincorporated”. The terms “urban” and “rural” are outdated and the term “rural” is now associated with a zoning designation or with undeveloped land. The terms “incorporated” and “unincorporated” are more updated and more accurate. These terms are updated throughout the chapter.
- **Section 1.09:** Aligns the annexation provisions with state law.
- **Section 1.11:** Deletes this section entitled “Limitation on Tax Rates” that is duplicative of state law.

CHAPTERS 2 AND 3: GOVERNING BODY

- Consolidates Chapters 2 and 3 into one chapter.
- Deletes language that references the election of 1983 to combine the City and Parish councils and effective dates of those changes.
- Deletes outdated language (“heretofore” and “hereafter”).
- All references to “council” are corrected to “Metropolitan Council.”
- All provisions of Chapter 3 (Governing Body – Powers and Duties) consolidated into Chapter 2 (Governing Body).
- **Section 2.01:** Deletes language that was necessary for transition to the Plan of Government but is no longer applicable.
- **Section 2.02:** Clarifies/simplifies language governing term limits for Metropolitan Council members.
- **Section 2.04:** Deletes language from Chapter 2 that is duplicative of existing and more complete language from Chapter 3.
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- **Section 2.09:** Deletes language from Chapter 2 that is duplicative of existing and more complete language from Chapter 3. Moves the date of inauguration of the Metropolitan Council members to on or before the 5th of January. The existing language requires inauguration to be on the second day of January which makes planning the inauguration difficult for staff over a holiday.
- **Section 2.11:** Moves the provision dealing with filling a vacancy on a board or commission to the section dealing with boards and commissions.
- **Section 2.12:** Removes language imposing penalties for ethical violations by Metropolitan Council members because such conduct is governed by state law (which imposes penalties and fines for violation of the Code of Ethics).
- **Section 2.14:** Removes outdated language regarding “adjourning” Metropolitan Council meetings “from time to time” and “mimeographing” ordinances and resolutions. Provides that all ordinances and resolutions shall be available electronically.
- **Section 2.20:** Deletes language that governed the transition to a requirement of term limits in 2006 for then-existing board members and is no longer applicable.

CHAPTER 4: MAYOR-PRESIDENT

- **Section 4.01:** Clarifies that the Mayor-President serves four year terms.
- **Section 4.02:** Removes outdated language regarding the Mayor-President’s term in 1949.
- **Section 4.03:** Combines the sections governing the powers and duties of the Mayor-President. Updates the titles of department directors.
- **Section 4.04:** Removes references to the President Pro Tempore and moves those references to Chapter 2.
- **Section 4.05:** Aligns provisions governing vacancies in office of the Mayor-President with state law.
- **Section 4.07 – 4.12:** Removes the sections governing the Department of Purchasing and moves those to a new Chapter 12 governing the Purchasing Department.
- **Section 4.13:** Clarifies that the budget is proposed by the Mayor-President and approved by the Metropolitan Council.

CHAPTER 5: DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

- **Section 5.02:** Streamlines the language outlining the role of each public works department to make duties and responsibilities clear and consistent.

CHAPTER 6: POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **Section 6.03:** Removes outdated language governing civil service status of police officers in 1949.

CHAPTER 7: FIRE DEPARTMENT

- **Section 7.02:** Clarifies that the Fire Chief has the ability to promulgate rules and regulations governing the employees of the fire department.

- **Section 7.03:** Removes outdated language governing civil service status of firemen in 1949.

CHAPTER 8: FINANCE

- **Section 8.01:** Removes outdated language regarding the qualifications of the Finance Director
- **Section 8.02:** Removes outdated language regarding the office of the Treasurer.
- **Section 8.03:** Clarifies the language governing the proper process for making a disbursement.
- **Section 8.05:** Removes redundant language regarding the duties for collecting taxes
- **Section 8.13:** Allows budget message and summaries to be published electronically.
- **Section 8.15:** Allows the Metropolitan Council to have until the last day of the fiscal year to adopt a budget for the following year.
- **Section 8.16:** Clarifies and defines departmental “work plans” that correspond to the department’s approved budget.
- **Section 8.17:** Creates a new section to address the Mayor-President’s ability to prevent budget deficits.

CHAPTER 9: PERSONNEL

- **Section 9.02:** Updates the title of the Human Resources Director (previously referred to as the “Personnel Administrator”). Updates the language regarding the election of employee representatives to the Personnel Board.
- **Section 9.03:** Updates the title of the Human Resources Director (previously referred to as the “Personnel Administrator”) and updates language regarding the personnel board and the election of personnel board members.
- **Section 9.04:** Requires that all rules and regulations promulgated by the Personnel Board must be approved by the Metropolitan Council.
- **Section 9.05:** Sets the date of notice for any required documents to a civil service employee to be the date the document was placed in the mail.
- **Section 9.09:** Removes outdated provision with respect to existing employees in 1949.
- **Section 9.10:** Prohibits discrimination against anyone in the classified service based on their status as a member of a protected class consistent with law.
- **Section 9.13:** Updates language to clarify that the City-Parish cannot discriminate against any employee or prospective employee in accordance with local, state, and federal law.
- **Section 9.14:** Simplifies language regarding unclassified employees.

CHAPTER 10: PLANNING COMMISSION

- **Section 10.02:** Deletes language that is no longer applicable and updates language to clarify that the planning director is the appointing authority for the Planning Commission department.
- **Section 10.04:** Adds “community design plan” and “economic development plan” to the required elements of the comprehensive land use plan.

CHAPTER 11: MISCELLANEOUS

- **Section 11.01:** Updates language for title of Parish Attorney to “City-Parish Attorney.”
- **Section 11.02:** Deletes language regarding Recreation and Park Commission because that is no longer the jurisdiction of City-Parish government.
- **Section 11.03:** Removes outdated language regarding the Library Board of Control membership in 1949.
- **Section 11.06:** Removes outdated language regarding Justices of the Peace who were in office in 1949.
- **Section 11.09:** Updates the language regarding amendments to the Plan of Government to be consistent with state law. Extends the time within which the Metropolitan Council can call an election for approval of proposed amendments.

ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

- Removes all references to the Division of Purchasing Department currently in Chapter 4 (Sections 4.07 through 4.12) and creates the Purchasing Department as its own chapter in the Plan of Government.