

ARTICLE XVII. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Investigation by Council or City Manager.

The Council, the City Manager, or any person or committee authorized by either of them shall have power to investigate the conduct of any office, department, agency or officer of the City or any other municipal affair, and for that purpose may subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, and compel the production of books, papers and other evidence.

(Ord. No. 1169-96 <sec> 1, 11-20-96)

Section 2. Contracts extending beyond one year.

No contract involving the payment of money out of the appropriations of more than one year shall be made for a period of more than five (5) years, nor shall any such contract be valid unless made or approved by ordinance.

Section 3. Publicity of records.

The Council shall have the authority to adopt ordinances providing for the reasonable inspection of all records and accounts of the City, provided that such ordinance or ordinances shall be in conformity with the laws of the State of Florida and the United States.

Section 4. Personal interest.

No member of the Council nor any officer or employee of the City shall have an interest, in violation of general law, in any contract with the City or in any legal entity which leases or sells to the City any lands, goods or services. Any willful violation of this section shall constitute malfeasance in office and shall subject such person to forfeiture of such office or position. Any contract entered into with the City in violation of this section, with the knowledge, expressed or implied, of the person or corporation contracting with the City, shall render the contract voidable at the option of the City.

(Ord. No. 1172-96 <sec> 1, 11-20-96)

Section 5. Official bonds.

The Council shall by general ordinance provide for the giving of official bonds by the director of finance, the Council and such other persons as shall be involved in the handling of City funds, in such amounts and with such sureties as may be approved by the Council. The premiums on such bonds shall be paid by the City. Nothing otherwise stated in this article to the contrary, bonds may be contracted for periods exceeding five (5) years.

Section 6. Oath of office.

Every officer of the City shall, before entering upon the duties of his or her office, take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation, to be filed and kept in the office of the City Clerk:

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the Constitution and will obey the laws of the United States, and of the State of Florida, that I will, in all respects, observe the

provisions of the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Punta Gorda, Florida, and will faithfully discharge the duties of the office of _____".

Section 7. Severability clause.

If any section or part of section of this Charter shall be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the remainder of this Charter nor the context in which such section or part of section so held invalid may appear, except that an entire section, or part of section may be inseparably connected in meaning and effect with the section, or part of section, to which such holding shall directly apply.

(Ord. No. 1399-04, <sec> 2, 12-15-04)