

shall the Council levy an assessment to recover the cost of normal repairs or maintenance to existing streets, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, drainage facilities or other similar improvements. Before levying any benefit assessment as provided herein, the Council must obtain in writing the approval of the owners of more than 50% of the abutting property against which the assessment is to be made.

B. NOTICE OF PROPOSED ASSESSMENT. When the Council has determined to propose an assessment for an improvement, the Administrative Officer shall notify in writing all owners of property against which the assessment is proposed to be levied, stating a time and place for a public hearing to be conducted thereon. Said notice may be mailed to the last known address of the owner, or served in person upon any adult occupying the premises. Said notice shall state the nature and extent of the proposed project, the estimated costs of the project, the portion of the cost to be assessed, the number of installments in which the assessment may be paid, and the rate of interest the assessment will bear. Notice of said public hearing shall also be advertised in at least one publication of general circulation within the City at least five days before the date of the hearing. Following the public hearing, and upon obtaining the written approval of the owners of more than fifty percent (50%) of the assessable property, the Council, in its discretion, may vote to proceed with the project and to levy the assessment. Any person feeling aggrieved by the levying of an assessment under the provisions of this assessment shall have the right to appeal to the Circuit Court for Prince George's County within ten (10) days after the levying of said assessment by the Council.

C. LEVYING OF ASSESSMENTS. All assessments levied under the provisions of this Section shall be by ordinance of the City Council, and shall be a lien on the property assessed, to be collected in the same manner as is provided for the collection of real property taxes. The assessment against each abutting parcel shall be for a share of the total cost of the assessable improvement equal to the proportion thereof that the number of feet in said parcel abutting on such improvement bears to the total assessable frontage on the part of the street or area so improved, or shall be on such other equitable basis as determined by the Council. The principal of such assessment shall be payable in twenty equal semi-annual installments from the date of the assessment, and at the time of the payment of each of the installments there shall also be due and payable the interest on such installment and on the balance of the principal then unpaid. The rate of interest shall be as determined by the Council in levying the assessment, and it shall not exceed the rate of interest stated in the notice of the proposed assessment mailed to the owners of assessable property as provided in this Section.

D. COLLECTION. All assessments shall be billed and collected by the City Treasurer, who shall be charged with the custody of all proceeds therefrom. All collections shall be maintained in a separate fund in the accounts of the City. No part of the proceeds collected may be used except to liquidate the notes, bonds, or other evidences of indebtedness, and to pay the interest thereon, which may have been issued to finance the improvements for which the assessment was levied. When such notes, bonds or other evidences of indebtedness have been paid in full, any remaining balance in the special assessment fund may be used for general municipal purposes as directed by the Council.

SECTION 16. GENERAL BORROWING AUTHORITY.

A. AUTHORITY AND LIMITS. The Council may from time to time authorize the Mayor to borrow upon the faith and credit of the City for general administration purposes and payment of its obligations, and for financing municipal improvements or purchases of property, structures, or equipment, and improvements authorized as benefit assessment projects, such sum or sums of