

money as may be necessary, provided that the total outstanding long-term indebtedness does not exceed at any one time a total of five per centum (5%) of the assessed valuation of the taxable real property in the City.

B. APPROVAL OF BORROWING. The Council is prohibited from borrowing money for any purpose, except for improvements for which a benefit assessment has been or will be levied to recover the entire cost of said improvements, unless first approved by a majority vote at a regular or special municipal election. If the money to be borrowed is to be used for more than one specific purpose, each such purpose and the amount of money proposed for each shall be listed as a separate question on the ballot.

SECTION 17. SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

The Council may settle in its discretion, claims and suits, either at law or in equity, or whether such claim may be based upon a suit already instituted or not, whenever the cause of action or claim arises out of the negligence or wrongful act, whether of commission or omission, of any officer or employee of the City, for whose negligence or acts the City, if a private individual, would be prima facie liable to respond to damages, irrespective of whether such negligence occurred or such acts were done in the performance of a municipal or a governmental function of the City. In the settlement of any claim under the provisions of this Section, the City shall not pay to any claimant an amount in excess of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), and any settlement so authorized may be paid out of any money which the City may have in its general funds. Nothing herein contained shall be construed as depriving the City of any defense it may have to any suit whether at law or in equity, which may be instituted against it or to give any person, corporation, partnership or association, any right to institute any suit against the City which did not exist prior to June 1, 1953. No action taken by the City in an effort to effectuate a settlement of any claim or suit authorized to be settled by the provisions of this Section shall be taken as an admission of liability on the part of the City, or otherwise used against the City respecting its liability or asserted to be any liability of the City in any suit instituted by a claimant to enforce his claim.

SECTION 18. PURCHASING AND CONTRACTS.

The Mayor shall be responsible for all purchases made by or on behalf of the City. The Council shall, by ordinance, provide procedures for the purchase or all supplies, materials, equipment, contractual services, and capital improvements for the City. Sealed competitive bids, solicited by advertising in at least one newspaper having general circulation within the City, shall be obtained for all purchases which are estimated to cost in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), provided that emergency purchases and purchases for which competitive bids cannot be obtained may be made without regard to this procedure.

SECTION 19. REFERENDUM.

A. PETITION. If, before the expiration of twenty (20) calendar days following approval of any ordinance or resolution, a petition is filed with the Board of Elections containing the signatures of not less than fifteen per centum (15%) of the registered voters of the City and requesting that the ordinance or resolution, or any part thereof, be submitted to a vote of the registered voters of the City for their approval or disapproval, the Council shall have the ordinance or resolution or the part thereof requested for referendum, submitted to a vote of the registered voters of the City at the next regular City election or, in the Council's discretion, at a special election occurring before the next regular election. Each person signing the petition shall indicate thereon both his name and residence address. Upon receiving the petition, the Board of Elections is directed to verify that it has been signed by