

House Bill 612

By: Representatives Henson of the 86<sup>th</sup> and Drenner of the 85<sup>th</sup>

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To incorporate the City of Winship in DeKalb County; to provide for a charter for the City  
2 of Winship; to provide for incorporation, boundaries, and powers of the city; to provide for  
3 general powers and limitations on powers; to provide for a governing authority of such city  
4 and the powers, duties, authority, election, terms, method of filling vacancies,  
5 compensation, expenses, qualifications, prohibitions, and districts relative to members of  
6 such governing authority; to provide for inquiries and investigations; to provide for  
7 organization and procedures; to provide for ordinances; to provide for codes; to provide for  
8 a charter commission; to provide for the office of mayor and certain duties and powers  
9 relative to the office of mayor; to provide for administrative responsibilities; to provide for  
10 boards, commissions, courts, and authorities; to provide for a city manager, a city attorney,  
11 a city clerk, a tax collector, a city accountant, and other personnel; to provide for a municipal  
12 court and the judge or judges thereof; to provide for practices and procedures; to provide for  
13 ethics and disclosures; to provide for taxation, licenses, and fees; to provide for franchises,  
14 service charges, and assessments; to provide for bonded and other indebtedness; to provide  
15 for accounting and budgeting; to provide for purchases; to provide for homestead  
16 exemptions; to provide for bonds for officials; to provide for other matters relative to the  
17 foregoing; to provide for a referendum; to provide effective dates and transitional provisions  
18 governing the transfer of various functions and responsibilities from DeKalb County to the  
19 City of Winship; to provide for severability; to provide an effective date; to repeal conflicting  
20 laws; and for other purposes.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

22 ARTICLE I

23 CREATION, INCORPORATION, AND POWERS

24 SECTION 1.01.

25 Incorporation.

26 This Act shall constitute the charter of the City of Winship, Georgia. The City of Winship,  
 27 Georgia, in the County of DeKalb, and the inhabitants thereof, are constituted and declared  
 28 a body politic and corporate under the same name and style of the "City of Winship" and by  
 29 that name shall have perpetual succession, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in  
 30 all courts of law and equity, and in all actions whatsoever, and may have and use a common  
 31 seal for all other purposes as authorized by the laws of the State of Georgia and the  
 32 Constitution of the State of Georgia.

33 SECTION 1.02.

34 Corporate boundaries.

35 The boundaries of the City of Winship shall be those set forth and described in Appendix A  
 36 of this charter, and such Appendix A is incorporated into and made a part of this charter. The  
 37 city clerk shall maintain a current map and written legal description of the corporate  
 38 boundaries of the city, and such map and description shall incorporate any changes which  
 39 may hereafter be made in such corporate boundaries.

40 SECTION 1.03.

41 Powers and construction.

42 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the city shall have the following  
 43 powers:

44 (1) Animal regulations. To regulate and license or to prohibit the keeping or running  
 45 at-large of animals and fowl, and to provide for the impoundment of same if in violation  
 46 of any ordinance or lawful order; to provide for the disposition by sale, gift, or humane  
 47 destruction of animals and fowl when not redeemed as provided by ordinance; and to  
 48 provide punishment for violation of ordinances enacted hereunder;

49 (2) Appropriations and expenditures. To make appropriations for the support of the  
 50 government of the city; to authorize the expenditure of money for any purposes  
 51 authorized by this charter and for any purpose for which a municipality is authorized by  
 52 the laws of the State of Georgia; and to provide for the payment of expenses of the city;

53 (3) Building regulation. To regulate and to license the erection and construction of  
54 buildings and all other structures; to adopt building, housing, plumbing, electrical, gas,  
55 and heating and air conditioning codes; and to regulate all housing and building trades  
56 to the extent permitted by general law;

57 (4) Business regulation and taxation. To levy and to provide for the collection of  
58 regulatory fees and taxes on privileges, occupations, trades, and professions as authorized  
59 by Title 48 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be  
60 enacted; to permit and regulate the same; to provide for the manner and method of  
61 payment of such regulatory fees and taxes; and to revoke such permits after due process  
62 for failure to pay any city taxes or fees;

63 (5) Condemnation.

64 (A) To condemn property inside the corporate limits of the city for present or future  
65 use and for any public purpose deemed necessary by the city council, utilizing  
66 procedures enumerated in Title 22 of the O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are  
67 or may hereafter be enacted; and

68 (B) To condemn and cause to be remediated or removed any building, structure, or  
69 existing condition within its corporate limits that is dangerous to life, limb, or property,  
70 by reasons of decay, dilapidation, or unsanitary condition. Nothing in this  
71 subparagraph shall be construed to relieve the city of any duty to give owners or  
72 interested persons reasonable notice and opportunity to remedy the situation. Nothing  
73 in this subparagraph shall be construed as relieving the city of liability to any owner or  
74 interested person for damages to person or property taken or destroyed in furtherance  
75 of this subparagraph. This subparagraph shall not be construed as authorizing the doing  
76 of any act or thing contrary to the Constitution of this state and the policy of the general  
77 laws of this state. The city shall have authority to adopt reasonable ordinances and  
78 resolutions for the purpose of carrying out this subparagraph;

79 (6) Contracts. To enter into contracts and agreements with other governmental entities  
80 and with private persons, firms, and corporations;

81 (7) Emergencies. To establish procedures for determining and proclaiming that an  
82 emergency situation exists within or without the city and to make and carry out all  
83 reasonable provisions deemed necessary to deal with or meet such an emergency for the  
84 protection, safety, health, or well-being of the citizens of the city;

85 (8) Environmental protection. To protect and preserve the natural resources,  
86 environment, and vital areas of the city, the region, and the state through the enactment  
87 of ordinances that preserve and improve air quality, restore and maintain water resources,  
88 control erosion and sedimentation, manage storm water and establish a storm-water

89 utility, manage solid and hazardous waste, and provide other necessary or beneficial  
90 actions for the protection of the environment;

91 (9) Ethics. To adopt ethics ordinances and regulations governing such things as, but not  
92 limited to, the conduct of municipal elected officials, appointed officials, contractors,  
93 vendors, and employees; establishing procedures for ethics complaints; and setting forth  
94 penalties for violations of such rules and procedures;

95 (10) Fire regulations. To fix and establish fire limits and from time to time to extend,  
96 enlarge, or restrict the same; to prescribe fire safety regulations not inconsistent with  
97 general law, relating to both fire prevention and detection and to fire fighting; and to  
98 prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;

99 (11) Garbage fees. To levy, fix, assess, and collect a garbage, refuse, and trash collection  
100 and disposal and other sanitary service charge, tax, or fee for such services as may be  
101 necessary in the operation of the city from all individuals, firms, and corporations  
102 residing in or doing business therein benefiting from such services; to enforce the  
103 payment of such charges, taxes, or fees; and to provide for the manner and method of  
104 collecting such service charges, taxes, or fees;

105 (12) General health, safety, and welfare. To define, regulate, and prohibit any act,  
106 practice, conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to health, sanitation,  
107 cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of the city and to provide for the  
108 enforcement of such standards;

109 (13) Gifts. To accept or refuse gifts, donations, bequests, or grants from any source for  
110 any purpose related to powers and duties of the city and the general welfare of its citizens  
111 on such terms and conditions as the donor or grantor may impose;

112 (14) Health and sanitation. To prescribe standards of health and sanitation and to  
113 provide for the enforcement of such standards;

114 (15) Homestead exemption. To establish and maintain procedures for offering  
115 homestead exemptions to residents of the city and maintaining current homestead  
116 exemptions of residents of the city as authorized by Act of the General Assembly;

117 (16) Jail sentences. To provide that persons given jail sentences in the city's court may  
118 work out such sentences in any public works or on the streets, roads, drains, and other  
119 public property in the city; to provide for commitment of such persons to any jail; to  
120 provide for the use of pretrial diversion and any alternative sentencing allowed by  
121 Georgia law; or to provide for commitment of such persons to any county work camp or  
122 county jail by agreement with the appropriate county officials;

123 (17) Motor vehicles. To regulate the operation of motor vehicles and exercise control  
124 over all traffic, including parking upon or across the streets, roads, alleys, and walkways  
125 of the city;

- 126 (18) Municipal agencies and delegation of power. To create, alter, or abolish  
127 departments, boards, offices not specified in this charter, commissions, authorities, and  
128 agencies of the city and to confer upon such agencies the necessary and appropriate  
129 authority for carrying out all the powers conferred upon or delegated to the same;
- 130 (19) Municipal courts. To create a municipal court with a judge or judge and associate  
131 judges as may be necessary and to authorize the creation of a municipal court clerk's  
132 office or make said clerk's duties a part of the duties of the city clerk as designated by the  
133 city council;
- 134 (20) Municipal debts. To appropriate and borrow money for the payment of debts of the  
135 city and to issue bonds for the purpose of raising revenue to carry out any project,  
136 program, or venture authorized by this charter or the laws of the State of Georgia;
- 137 (21) Municipal property ownership. To acquire, dispose of, lease, and hold in trust or  
138 otherwise any real, personal, or mixed property, in fee simple or lesser interest, inside or  
139 outside the property limits of the city;
- 140 (22) Municipal property protection. To provide for the preservation and protection of  
141 property and equipment of the city and the administration and use of same by the public  
142 and to prescribe penalties and punishment for violations thereof;
- 143 (23) Municipal utilities. To acquire, lease, construct, operate, maintain, sell, and dispose  
144 of public utilities, including, but not limited to, a system of waterworks, sewers and  
145 drains, sewage disposal, storm-water management, gas works, electricity generating  
146 plants, cable television and other telecommunications, transportation facilities, public  
147 airports, and any other public utility; to fix the taxes, charges, rates, fares, fees,  
148 assessments, regulations, and penalties; and to provide for the withdrawal of service for  
149 refusal or failure to pay the same;
- 150 (24) Nuisance. To define a nuisance and provide for its abatement whether on public or  
151 private property;
- 152 (25) Penalties. To provide penalties for violation of any ordinances adopted pursuant to  
153 the authority of this charter and the laws of the State of Georgia;
- 154 (26) Planning and zoning. To provide comprehensive city planning for city land use,  
155 signage, and outside advertising, and development by zoning; and to provide subdivision  
156 regulation and the like as the city council deems necessary and reasonable to ensure a  
157 safe, healthy, and esthetically pleasing community;
- 158 (27) Police and fire protection. To exercise the power of arrest through duly appointed  
159 police officers and to establish, operate, or contract for a police and a fire-fighting  
160 agency;

- 161 (28) Public hazards: removal. To provide for the destruction and removal of any  
162 building or other structure which is or may become dangerous or detrimental to the  
163 public;
- 164 (29) Public improvements. To provide for the acquisition, construction, building,  
165 operation, maintenance, or abolition of public ways, parks and playgrounds, recreational  
166 facilities, cemeteries, public buildings, libraries, public housing, parking facilities, and  
167 charitable, cultural, educational, recreational, conservation, sport, detentional, penal, and  
168 medical institutions, agencies, and facilities; to provide any other public improvements,  
169 inside the corporate limits of the city and to regulate the use of public improvements; and  
170 for such purposes, property may be acquired by condemnation under Title 22 of the  
171 O.C.G.A. or such other applicable laws as are or may hereafter be enacted;
- 172 (30) Public peace. To provide for the prevention and punishment of loitering, disorderly  
173 conduct, drunkenness, riots, and public disturbances;
- 174 (31) Public transportation. To organize and operate such public transportation systems  
175 as are deemed beneficial;
- 176 (32) Public utilities and services. To grant franchises or make contracts for, or impose  
177 taxes on, public utilities and public service companies; and to prescribe the rates, fares,  
178 regulations, and standards and conditions of service applicable to the service to be  
179 provided by the franchise grantee or contractor, insofar as not in conflict with valid  
180 regulations of the Public Service Commission;
- 181 (33) Regulation of roadside areas. To prohibit or regulate and control the erection,  
182 removal, and maintenance of signs, billboards, trees, shrubs, fences, buildings, and any  
183 and all other structures or obstructions upon or adjacent to the rights of way of streets and  
184 roads or within view thereof, within or abutting the corporate limits of the city; and to  
185 prescribe penalties and punishment for violation of such ordinances;
- 186 (34) Retirement and employee benefits. To provide and maintain a retirement plan,  
187 insurance, and such other employee benefits for appointed officers and employees of the  
188 city, as are determined by the city council;
- 189 (35) Roadways. To lay out, open, extend, widen, narrow, establish or change the grade  
190 of, abandon or close, construct, pave, curb, gutter, adorn with shade trees, or otherwise  
191 improve, maintain, repair, clean, prevent erosion of, and light the roads, alleys, and  
192 walkways within the corporate limits of the city; to grant franchises and rights of way  
193 throughout the streets and roads and over the bridges and viaducts for the use of public  
194 utilities; and to require real estate owners to repair and maintain in a safe condition the  
195 sidewalks adjoining their lots or lands and to impose penalties for failure to do so;
- 196 (36) Solid waste disposal. To provide for the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish,  
197 and refuse and to regulate the collection and disposal of garbage, rubbish, and refuse by

198 others; and to provide for the separate collection of glass, tin, aluminum, cardboard,  
 199 paper, and other recyclable materials and to provide for the sale of such items;

200 (37) Special assessments. To levy and provide for the collection of special assessments  
 201 to cover the costs for any public improvements, subject to referendum;

202 (38) Taxes: ad valorem. To levy and provide for the assessment, valuation, revaluation,  
 203 and collection of taxes on all property subject to taxation to a maximum of 1 mill without  
 204 a referendum;

205 (39) Taxes: other. To levy and collect such other taxes and fees as may be allowed now  
 206 or in the future by law;

207 (40) Taxicabs. To regulate and license vehicles operated for hire in the city; to limit the  
 208 number of such vehicles; to require the operators thereof to be licensed; to require public  
 209 liability insurance on such vehicles in the amounts to be prescribed by ordinance; to  
 210 inspect such vehicles and mandate standards of safety and cleanliness; and to regulate the  
 211 parking of such vehicles;

212 (41) Tourism, conventions, and trade shows. To provide for the structure, operation, and  
 213 management of the Winship Convention and Visitors Bureau created pursuant to  
 214 Section 1.05 of this charter and to authorize the City of Winship to contract with private  
 215 sector nonprofit organizations or other governmental agencies to promote tourism,  
 216 conventions, and trade shows;

217 (42) Urban redevelopment. To organize and operate an urban redevelopment program;  
 218 and

219 (43) Other powers. To exercise and enjoy all other powers, functions, rights, privileges,  
 220 and immunities necessary or desirable to promote or protect the safety, health, peace,  
 221 security, good order, comfort, convenience, or general welfare of the city and its  
 222 inhabitants; to exercise all implied powers necessary or desirable to carry into execution  
 223 all powers granted in this charter as fully and completely as if such powers were fully  
 224 stated herein; and to exercise all powers now or in the future authorized to be exercised  
 225 by other municipal governments under other laws of the State of Georgia; and any listing  
 226 of particular powers in this charter shall not be held to be exclusive of others or restrictive  
 227 of general words and phrases granting powers but shall be held to be in addition to such  
 228 powers unless expressly prohibited to municipalities under the Constitution or applicable  
 229 laws of the State of Georgia.

230 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the city shall exercise the powers  
 231 enumerated in subsection (a) of this section only for the purposes of planning and zoning,  
 232 code adoption and enforcement, and parks and recreation services and those items directly  
 233 related to the provision of such services and for the general administration of the city in  
 234 providing such services.

235 (c) In the event that the city desires to provide services in addition to those services  
 236 enumerated in subsection (b) of this section, the city council shall pass a resolution  
 237 specifically stating the services sought to be offered by the city and shall submit such  
 238 resolution for ratification by the electors of the city in a referendum. If the electors of the  
 239 city vote in favor of ratifying such resolution, then the city shall be authorized to exercise the  
 240 powers enumerated in subsection (a) of this section for the purpose of providing such  
 241 services stated in such resolution and those items directly related to the provision of such  
 242 services and for the general administration of the city in providing such services. If the  
 243 electors of the city disapprove such resolution, such resolution shall immediately be null and  
 244 void and of no force and effect.

245 **SECTION 1.04.**

246 Exercise of powers.

247 All powers, functions, rights, privileges, and immunities of the city, its officers, agencies, or  
 248 employees shall be carried into execution as provided by this charter. If this charter makes  
 249 no provision, such shall be carried into execution as provided by ordinance or as provided  
 250 by pertinent laws of the State of Georgia.

251 **SECTION 1.05.**

252 Tourism, conventions, and trade shows.

253 The Winship Convention and Visitors Bureau is hereby authorized to be created by an  
 254 ordinance of the city council. When created, the bureau shall consist of a board of seven  
 255 members appointed by the city council. The bureau shall report to the city manager on a  
 256 regular basis and shall send an annual report to the city council in January of each year.

257 **ARTICLE II**

258 **GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE, ELECTIONS, AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

259 **SECTION 2.01.**

260 City council creation; number; election.

261 (a) The legislative authority of the government of the City of Winship, except as otherwise  
 262 specifically provided in this charter, shall be vested in a city council of which the mayor shall  
 263 be a voting member.

264 (b)(1) The city council of the City of Winship shall consist of six members, plus the  
 265 mayor.

266 (2) There shall be three council districts, designated as Council Districts 1 through 3, as  
267 described in Appendix B of this charter, which is attached to and made a part of this  
268 charter of the City of Winship.

269 (3) One councilmember shall be elected from each of the three council districts and shall  
270 hold Council Posts 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Each person desiring to offer as a candidate  
271 for councilmember for such posts shall designate the council post for which he or she is  
272 offering. Councilmembers for such posts shall be elected by a majority vote of the  
273 qualified electors of the respective council districts voting at the elections of the city. In  
274 the event that no candidate for a council post obtains a majority vote of the qualified  
275 electors of the council district voting in the election, then a run-off election shall be held.  
276 The candidates receiving the two highest numbers of votes in the election for such  
277 council post shall be included in the run-off election. The person receiving the highest  
278 number of votes of the qualified electors of the council district voting at such run-off  
279 election shall be elected. Each candidate for election to the city council shall reside in  
280 the district which he or she seeks to represent.

281 (4) Three councilmembers shall be elected from the city at large and shall represent  
282 Council Posts 4, 5, and 6. Candidates offering for election to Council Post 4 shall reside  
283 in Council District 1, candidates offering for election to Council Post 5 shall reside in  
284 Council District 2, and candidates offering for election to Council Post 6 shall reside in  
285 Council District 3. Each person desiring to offer as a candidate for councilmember for  
286 such posts shall designate the council post for which he or she is offering.  
287 Councilmembers for such posts shall be elected by a majority vote of the qualified  
288 electors of the entire city voting at the elections of the city. In the event that no candidate  
289 for a council post obtains a majority vote of the qualified electors of the entire city voting  
290 in the election, then a run-off election shall be held. The candidates receiving the two  
291 highest numbers of votes in the election for such council post shall be included in the  
292 run-off election. The person receiving the highest number of votes of the qualified  
293 electors of the entire city voting at such run-off election shall be elected.

294 (c) With the exception of the initial terms set forth in subsection (d) of this section,  
295 councilmembers shall be elected to terms of four years and until their respective successors  
296 are elected and qualified on a staggered basis in alternate election cycles such that every two  
297 years three councilmembers are up for election.

298 (d) In order to assure staggered elections of the councilmembers, in the first election of the  
299 city council, the terms for the candidates elected for Council Posts, 1, 2, and 3 shall expire  
300 upon the administration of the oath of office to their successors elected in the regular  
301 elections held in November, 2017, as provided in subsection (b) of Section 2.02 of this  
302 charter. The terms for the candidates elected for Council Posts 4, 5, and 6 shall expire upon

303 the administration of the oath of office to their successors elected in the regular elections held  
 304 in November, 2019, as provided in subsection (b) of Section 2.02 of this charter. Thereafter,  
 305 a successor to each councilmember shall be elected at the November election immediately  
 306 preceding the end of such councilmember's term of office and the term of each  
 307 councilmember shall expire upon the administration of the oath of office to his or her  
 308 successor.

309 (e) With the exception of the initial term of office, the mayor of the City of Winship, with  
 310 the powers and duties specified in this charter, shall be elected to a term of four years and  
 311 until his or her successor is elected and qualified. The mayor shall be elected by a majority  
 312 vote of the qualified electors of the city at large voting at the elections of the city. In the  
 313 event that no candidate for mayor obtains a majority vote of the qualified electors of the city  
 314 at large voting at the elections of the city, then a run-off election shall be held. The  
 315 candidates receiving the two highest numbers of votes in the election shall be included in the  
 316 run-off election, and the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the runoff of the  
 317 qualified electors of the city at large voting in such runoff shall be elected. The term of the  
 318 first elected mayor shall expire upon the administration of the oath of office to his or her  
 319 successor elected in the regular election held in November, 2017, as provided in  
 320 subsection (b) of Section 2.02 of this charter. Thereafter, a successor to each mayor shall be  
 321 elected at the November election immediately preceding the end of such mayor's term of  
 322 office and the term of each mayor shall expire upon the administration of the oath of office  
 323 to his or her successor.

324

## **SECTION 2.02.**

325

Mayor and councilmembers; terms and qualifications for office.

326 (a) For all elections subsequent to the first election, the mayor and councilmembers shall  
 327 serve for terms of four years and until their terms shall expire upon the administration of the  
 328 oath of office to their respective successors. No person shall be eligible to serve as mayor  
 329 or councilmember unless that person shall have been a resident of the City of Winship for  
 330 a continuous period of at least 12 months immediately prior to the date of election for mayor  
 331 or councilmember, shall continue to reside therein during that person's period of service, and  
 332 shall continue to be registered and qualified to vote in municipal elections of the City of  
 333 Winship. In addition to the above requirements, no person shall be eligible to serve as a  
 334 councilmember representing a council district unless that person continues to reside in such  
 335 district during that person's period of service.

336 (b) An election shall be held on the date of and in conjunction with the 2016 presidential  
 337 preference primary to elect the first mayor and city council. At such election, the first mayor

338 and council shall be elected to serve for the initial terms of office specified in subsections (d)  
 339 and (e) of Section 2.01. Thereafter, the time for holding regular municipal elections shall be  
 340 on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered year beginning  
 341 in 2017.

342 (c) The number of successive terms an individual may hold a position as a councilmember  
 343 shall be limited to two terms.

344 (d) The number of successive terms an individual may hold the position of mayor shall be  
 345 limited to three terms.

### 346 **SECTION 2.03.**

#### 347 Vacancy; filling of vacancies; suspensions.

348 (a) Elected officials of the city shall not hold other elective or public offices. The elective  
 349 offices of the city's government shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death, resignation,  
 350 removal, or forfeiture of office. The following shall result in an elected city official  
 351 forfeiting his or her office:

352 (1) Failing to reside in the city or the district from which such person was elected;

353 (2) Being convicted of, or pleading guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony or any  
 354 misdemeanor involving theft or deception; or

355 (3) Failing to attend one-third of the regular meetings of the council in a three-month  
 356 period without being excused by the council.

357 (b) The office of mayor shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death, resignation,  
 358 forfeiture of office, or removal from office in any manner authorized by this charter or the  
 359 general laws of the State of Georgia. A vacancy in the office of mayor shall be filled for the  
 360 remainder of the unexpired term by a special election if such vacancy occurs 12 months or  
 361 more prior to the expiration of the term of that office. If such vacancy occurs within 12  
 362 months of the expiration of the term of that office, the city council or those members  
 363 remaining shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term. This provision shall also  
 364 apply to a temporary vacancy created by the suspension from office of the mayor.

365 (c) The office of a councilmember shall become vacant upon the incumbent's death,  
 366 resignation, forfeiture of office, or removal from office in any manner authorized by this  
 367 charter or the general laws of the State of Georgia. A vacancy in the office of a  
 368 councilmember shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by a special election  
 369 if such vacancy occurs 12 months or more prior to the expiration of the term of that office.  
 370 If such vacancy occurs within 12 months of the expiration of the term of that office, the  
 371 mayor shall appoint a successor for the remainder of the term, subject to the approval of the

372 city council or those members remaining. This provision shall also apply to a temporary  
373 vacancy created by the suspension from office of a councilmember.

374 **SECTION 2.04.**

375 Nonpartisan elections.

376 Political parties shall not conduct primaries for city offices, and all names of candidates for  
377 city offices shall be listed without party designation.

378 **SECTION 2.05.**

379 Election votes.

380 The candidate for mayor and the candidates for Council Posts 4, 5, and 6, respectively, who  
381 receive the majority vote for their respective offices of the qualified electors of the city at  
382 large voting in the elections of the city and the candidates for Council Posts 1, 2, and 3,  
383 respectively, who receive the majority vote of the qualified electors of their respective  
384 districts voting in the elections of the city shall be elected to a term of office.

385 **SECTION 2.06.**

386 Applicability of general laws; qualifying; other provisions.

387 All elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the  
388 O.C.G.A, the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter amended or otherwise provided  
389 by law. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, the city council shall, by ordinance or  
390 resolution, prescribe such rules and regulations as it deems appropriate, including, but not  
391 limited to, the establishment of qualifying fees, to fulfill any options and duties under  
392 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A, the "Georgia Election Code," as now or hereafter  
393 amended or otherwise provided by law.

394 **SECTION 2.07.**

395 Compensation and expenses.

396 The annual salary of the mayor shall be \$20,000.00, and the annual salary for each  
397 councilmember shall be \$14,000.00. Such salaries shall be paid from municipal funds in  
398 monthly installments. The mayor shall be provided an annual expense allowance  
399 of \$5,000.00 and each councilmember shall be provided an annual expense allowance

400 of \$3,000.00 for the reimbursement of expenses actually and necessarily incurred by the  
401 mayor and councilmembers in carrying out their duties as elected officials of the city.

402 **SECTION 2.08.**

403 Inquiries and investigations.

404 The city council may make inquiries and investigations into the affairs of the city and  
405 conduct of any department, office, or agency thereof and for this purpose may subpoena  
406 witnesses, administer oaths, take testimony, and require the production of evidence. Any  
407 person who fails or refuses to obey a lawful order issued in the exercise of these powers by  
408 the city council shall be punished as may be provided by ordinance.

409 **SECTION 2.09.**

410 Meetings, oath of office, and mayor pro tempore.

411 (a) The city council shall meet on the seventh working day in January immediately  
412 following each regular municipal election. The meeting shall be called to order by the  
413 mayor-elect, and the oath of office shall be administered to the newly elected mayor and  
414 councilmembers collectively by a judicial officer authorized to administer oaths. The oath  
415 shall, to the extent that it comports with federal and state law, be as follows:

416 "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will faithfully execute the office of [councilmember  
417 or mayor, as the case may be] of the City of Winship, and will, to the best of my ability,  
418 support and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of  
419 Georgia, and the charter, ordinances, and regulations of the City of Winship. I am not the  
420 holder of any unaccounted for public money due this state or any political subdivision or  
421 authority thereof. I am not the holder of any office of trust under the government of the  
422 United States, any other state, or any foreign state which I by the laws of the State of  
423 Georgia am prohibited from holding. I am otherwise qualified to hold said office according  
424 to the Constitution and laws of Georgia. I have been a resident of my district and the City  
425 of Winship for the time required by the Constitution and laws of this state and by the  
426 municipal charter. I will perform the duties of my office in the best interests of the City  
427 of Winship to the best of my ability without fear, favor, affection, reward, or expectation  
428 thereof."

429 (b) Following the induction of the mayor and councilmembers, the city council, by a  
430 majority vote of the councilmembers, shall elect a councilmember to be mayor pro tempore,  
431 who shall serve for a term of two years and until a successor is elected and qualified. The

432 number of successive terms an individual may hold a position as mayor pro tempore shall  
433 be unlimited.

434 (c) The mayor pro tempore shall assume the duties and powers of the mayor during the  
435 mayor's temporary disability, suspension, or absence. If the mayor pro tempore is absent  
436 because of sickness or disqualification, any one of the remaining councilmembers, chosen  
437 by the councilmembers present, shall be clothed with all the rights and privileges of the  
438 mayor as described in this charter and shall perform the mayor's duties in the same manner  
439 as the mayor pro tempore.

440 (d) The city council shall, at least once a month, hold regular meetings at such times and  
441 places as shall be prescribed by ordinance. The city council may recess any regular meeting  
442 and continue such meeting on any day or hour it may fix and may transact any business at  
443 such continued meeting as may be transacted at any regular meeting.

444 (e) Special meetings of the city council may be held on call of either the mayor and one  
445 councilmember or three councilmembers. Notice of such special meetings shall be delivered  
446 to all councilmembers, the mayor, and the city manager personally, by registered mail, or by  
447 electronic means at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Such notice shall not be  
448 required if the mayor, all councilmembers, and the city manager are present when the special  
449 meeting is called. Such notice of any special meeting may be waived by the mayor, a  
450 councilmember, or the city manager in writing before or after such a meeting, and attendance  
451 at the meeting shall also constitute a waiver of notice. The notice of such special meeting  
452 shall state what business is to be transacted at the special meeting. Only the business stated  
453 in the call may be transacted at the special meeting.

454 **SECTION 2.10.**

455 **Quorum; voting.**

456 (a) Four councilmembers shall constitute a quorum and shall be authorized to transact  
457 business for the city council. The mayor shall be counted toward the making of a quorum.  
458 Voting on the adoption of ordinances shall be taken by voice vote, and the yeas and nays  
459 shall be recorded in the minutes, but on the request of any member, there shall be a roll call  
460 vote. In order for any ordinance, resolution, motion, or other action of the city council to be  
461 adopted, the measure shall receive at least three affirmative votes and shall receive the  
462 affirmative votes of a majority of those voting. Notwithstanding any provision to the  
463 contrary, no ordinance shall be adopted if the ordinance receives a no vote from both  
464 councilmembers that have a residence requirement in any one of the three districts.

465 (b) Any voting member of the council may abstain from voting on an issue or may recuse  
466 himself or herself from voting only when a conflict of interest exists. Such conflict shall be

467 disclosed to the city council and entered on the record. A vote to abstain may be entered by  
 468 any voting member as a protest under the councilmember's First Amendment rights and shall  
 469 be reflected as such in the record of the vote. If any councilmember or the mayor is present  
 470 and eligible to vote on a matter and refuses to do so for a reason he or she will not disclose,  
 471 he or she shall be deemed to have voted with the majority of the votes of the other  
 472 councilmembers on the issue involved, provided that if there is a tie in the vote of the voting  
 473 councilmembers, then the mayor and each councilmember shall be required to vote unless  
 474 he or she discloses a reason for not voting. The mayor shall have one vote on all matters  
 475 brought before the council.

476 (c) The following types of actions require an ordinance in order to have the force of law:

- 477 (1) Adopt or amend an administrative code or establish, alter, or abolish a department,
- 478 office not specified in this charter, or agency;
- 479 (2) Provide for a fine or other penalty;
- 480 (3) Levy taxes;
- 481 (4) Grant, renew, or extend a franchise;
- 482 (5) Regulate a rate for a public utility;
- 483 (6) Authorize the borrowing of money;
- 484 (7) Convey, lease, or encumber city land;
- 485 (8) Regulate land use and development;
- 486 (9) Amend or repeal an ordinance already adopted; and
- 487 (10) Propose and vote on a budget for the fiscal year and to authorize a budget plan for
- 488 a term beyond the current fiscal year.

489 (d) The city council shall establish by ordinance procedures for convening emergency  
 490 meetings. In an emergency, an ordinance may be passed without notice or hearings if the  
 491 city council passes the ordinance by a three-fourths' vote; provided, however, that the city  
 492 council shall not in an emergency meeting:

- 493 (1) Levy taxes;
- 494 (2) Grant, renew, or extend a franchise;
- 495 (3) Regulate a rate for a public utility; or
- 496 (4) Borrow money.

## 497 **SECTION 2.11.**

498 **General power and authority of the city council.**

499 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law or by this charter, the city council shall be vested  
 500 with all the powers of government of the City of Winship as provided in Article I of this  
 501 charter.

502 (b) In addition to all other powers conferred upon it by law, the city council shall have the  
 503 authority to adopt and provide for the execution of such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and  
 504 regulations, not inconsistent with this charter and the Constitution and the laws of the State  
 505 of Georgia, which it shall deem necessary, expedient, or helpful for the peace, good order,  
 506 protection of life and property, health, welfare, sanitation, comfort, convenience, prosperity,  
 507 or well-being of the inhabitants of the City of Winship and may enforce such ordinances by  
 508 imposing penalties for violation thereof.

509 **SECTION 2.12.**

510 Administrative and service departments.

511 (a) Except for the office of city manager and the positions provided for in this charter, the  
 512 city council, by ordinance, may establish, abolish, merge, or consolidate offices not specified  
 513 in this charter, positions of employment, departments, and agencies of the city as it shall  
 514 deem necessary for the proper administration of the affairs and government of the city. The  
 515 city council shall prescribe the functions and duties of existing departments, offices, and  
 516 agencies or of any departments, offices, and agencies created or established under this  
 517 charter; may provide that the same person shall fill any number of offices and positions of  
 518 employment; and may transfer or change the functions and duties of offices, positions of  
 519 employment, departments, and agencies of the city.

520 (b) The operations and responsibilities of each department now or hereafter established in  
 521 the city shall be distributed among such divisions or bureaus as may be provided by  
 522 ordinance of the city council. Each department shall consist of such officers, employees, and  
 523 positions as may be provided by this charter or by ordinance and shall be subject to the  
 524 general supervision and guidance of the mayor and city council.

525 **SECTION 2.13.**

526 Prohibitions.

527 (a) No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any agency or political  
 528 entity to which this charter applies shall knowingly:

529 (1) Engage in any business or transaction or have a financial or other personal interest,  
 530 direct or indirect, which is in conflict with or which is within the scope of the proper  
 531 discharge of official duties or which would tend to impair the independence of his or her  
 532 judgment or action in the performance of official duties;

533 (2) Engage in or accept private employment or render services for private interests when  
 534 such employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties

535 or would tend to impair the independence of his or her judgment or action in the  
536 performance of official duties;

537 (3) Disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of  
538 the governmental body by which engaged without proper legal authorization or use such  
539 information to advance the financial or other private interest of himself or herself or  
540 others, except as required by law;

541 (4) Accept any valuable gift, whether in the form of service, loan, object, or promise,  
542 from any person, firm, or corporation which to his or her knowledge is interested, directly  
543 or indirectly, in any manner whatsoever, in business dealings with the governmental body  
544 by which he or she is engaged. As used in this paragraph, the term "valuable" means an  
545 amount determined by the city council; provided, however, that the amount shall not  
546 exceed \$150.00; or

547 (5) Vote or otherwise participate in the negotiation or in the making of any contract with  
548 any business or entity in which he or she or any member of his or her immediate family  
549 has a financial interest.

550 (b) Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee who has any private financial  
551 interest, directly or indirectly, in any contract or matter pending before or within any  
552 department of the city shall disclose such private interest to the city council. As used in this  
553 subsection, the term "private financial interest" includes the interest of a spouse, child, or  
554 significant other or domestic partner. The mayor or any councilmember who has a private  
555 interest in any matter pending before the city council shall disclose in writing such private  
556 interest, such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the city council, and he or she shall  
557 disqualify himself or herself from participating in any decision or vote relating thereto. Any  
558 elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any agency or political entity to which this  
559 charter applies who shall have any private financial interest, directly or indirectly, in any  
560 contract or matter pending before or within such entity shall disclose such private interest to  
561 the governing body of such agency or entity.

562 (c) No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the city or any agency or entity to  
563 which this charter applies shall use property owned by such governmental entity for personal  
564 benefit, convenience, or profit, except in accordance with policies promulgated by the city  
565 council or the governing body of such agency or entity.

566 (d) Any violation of this section which occurs with the knowledge, express or implied, of  
567 a party to a contract or sale shall render such contract or sale voidable at the option of the city  
568 council.

569 (e) Except as authorized by law, no member of the city council shall hold any other elective  
570 city office or be employed by any city or county government during the term for which  
571 elected.

572

**SECTION 2.14.**

573

## Boards, commissions, and authorities.

574 (a) All members of boards, commissions, and authorities of the city shall be nominated by  
575 the mayor subject to confirmation by the city council for such terms of office and such  
576 manner of appointment as provided by ordinance, except where other appointing authority,  
577 term of office, or manner of appointment is prescribed by this charter or by applicable state  
578 law. If the city council does not approve of two consecutive nominations by the mayor for  
579 the same position, any councilmember may nominate such member subject to confirmation  
580 by the city council.

581 (b) No member of any board, commission, or authority of the city shall hold any elective  
582 office in the city. Councilmembers and the mayor, however, may serve as ex officio  
583 members of such boards, commissions, or authorities, without a vote.

584 (c) Any vacancy in office of any member of a board, commission, or authority of the city  
585 shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner prescribed for original appointment,  
586 except as otherwise provided by this charter or any applicable law of the State of Georgia.

587 (d) No member of a board, commission, or authority shall assume office until he or she shall  
588 have executed and filed with the designated officer of the city an oath obligating himself or  
589 herself to faithfully and impartially perform the duties of his or her office, such oath to be  
590 prescribed by ordinance of the city council and administered by the mayor or a judicial  
591 officer authorized by law to administer oaths.

592 (e) Any member of a board, commission, or authority may be removed from office by a vote  
593 of a majority of the councilmembers in accordance with state laws.

594 (f) Members of boards, commissions, and authorities may receive such compensation and  
595 expenses in the performance of their official duties as prescribed by ordinance.

596 (g) Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by applicable state law, each board,  
597 commission, or authority of the city government shall elect one of its members as  
598 chairperson and one member as vice chairperson for terms of one year and may elect as its  
599 secretary one of its own members or may appoint as secretary an employee of the city. Each  
600 board, commission, or authority of the city government may establish such bylaws, rules, and  
601 regulations, not inconsistent with this charter, ordinances of the city, or applicable state law,  
602 as it deems appropriate and necessary for the conduct of its affairs, copies of which shall be  
603 filed with the designated officer of the city.

604

**SECTION 2.15.**

605

Ordinance form; procedures.

606 (a) Every proposed ordinance and resolution shall be introduced in writing, and the city  
 607 council shall have the authority to approve, disapprove, or amend such ordinance or  
 608 resolution. A resolution may be passed at the time it is offered, but an ordinance shall not  
 609 be adopted until the title of such ordinance shall have been read at two city council meetings,  
 610 provided that the beginning of such meetings be not less than 24 hours nor more than 60 days  
 611 apart. This requirement of two readings shall not apply to emergency ordinances, to  
 612 ordinances passed during the first 90 days from the date on which the city begins operation,  
 613 or to ordinances adopted at the first meeting of the initial city council as elected under  
 614 subsection (b) of Section 2.02 of this charter. The catchlines of sections of this charter or any  
 615 ordinance printed in boldface type, italics, or otherwise are intended as mere catchwords to  
 616 indicate the contents of the section and:

617 (1) Shall not be deemed or taken to be titles of such sections or as any part of the section;

618 and

619 (2) Shall not be so deemed when any of such sections, including the catchlines, are  
 620 amended or reenacted unless expressly provided to the contrary.

621 Furthermore, the chapter, article, and section headings contained in this charter shall not be  
 622 deemed to govern, limit, or modify or in any manner affect the scope, meaning, or intent of  
 623 the provisions of any chapter, article, or section of this charter.

624 (b) The city council may, by ordinance or resolution, adopt rules and bylaws to govern the  
 625 conduct of its business, including procedures and penalties for compelling the attendance of  
 626 absent councilmembers. Such rules may include punishment for contemptuous behavior  
 627 conducted in the presence of the city council.

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**SECTION 2.16.**

629

Submission of ordinances to the city clerk.

630 (a) Every ordinance, resolution, and other action adopted by the city council shall be  
 631 presented to the city clerk within 15 days of its adoption or approval. The city clerk shall  
 632 record upon the ordinance the date of its delivery from the city council.

633 (b) An ordinance or resolution that has been passed by the city council shall become  
 634 effective on the date the ordinance is passed by the city council or on such other date as may  
 635 be specified in the ordinance.

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ARTICLE III  
EXECUTIVE BRANCH  
**SECTION 3.01.**  
Powers and duties of the mayor.

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- (a) The mayor shall:
- (1) Preside over all meetings of the city council;
  - (2) Set the agenda for meetings of the city council after receiving input from members of the city council, the city manager, and the public; provided, however, that an additional item shall be added to the agenda upon the written request of any member of the city council, and name of the mayor or councilmember placing an item on the agenda shall be noted on the agenda;
  - (3) Serve as the ceremonial head of the city and as its official representative to federal, state, and local government bodies and officials;
  - (4) Sign all orders, checks, and warrants for payment of money within a level of authorization as established by the city council;
  - (5) Execute all contracts, deeds, and other obligations of the city within a level of authorization as established by the city council;
  - (6) Vote in all matters before the city council as provided in subsection (a) of Section 2.10 of this charter;
  - (7) Make all appointments of city officers as provided by this charter, subject to confirmation by the city council;
  - (8) Serve in a part-time capacity and be compensated accordingly;
  - (9) Approve all raises or increases in compensation of city staff with the consent of the city council; and
  - (10) Perform any other duties and exercise any other powers required by state or federal law or authorized by a duly adopted ordinance that is not in conflict with this charter.
- (b) The mayor shall have the authority to certify that a supplemental appropriation is possible due to unexpected revenue increases but only with approval of the city council.
- (c) The mayor shall have all of the powers specifically granted to the mayor elsewhere in this charter regardless of whether such powers are enumerated in this section.

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**SECTION 3.02.**  
City manager; appointment and qualification.

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The mayor shall nominate a person for the office of city manager, and the approval of the city council shall be required to make the appointment official. If the first proposed city

670 manager is rejected by the city council, the mayor shall make a second appointment  
 671 selection. If the city council rejects that second appointment selection, the city council shall  
 672 offer a candidate for city manager and, by a majority vote, send the appointee to the mayor  
 673 for approval. If the mayor vetoes or does not approve, a second vote of a two-thirds' majority  
 674 of the council shall be needed to approve the appointee for the position. The city council  
 675 may offer as many candidates as needed until the required approval is achieved. The city  
 676 manager shall be appointed without regard to political beliefs and solely on the basis of his  
 677 or her education and experience in the accepted competencies and practices of local  
 678 government management.

679 **SECTION 3.03.**

680 City manager; chief administrative officer.

681 The city manager shall be the chief administrative officer of the government of the city. The  
 682 city manager shall devote all of his or her working time and attention to the affairs of the city  
 683 and shall be responsible to the mayor and city council for the proper and efficient  
 684 administration of the affairs of the city over which such officer has jurisdiction.

685 **SECTION 3.04.**

686 City manager; powers and duties enumerated.

687 The city manager shall have the power, and it shall be his or her duty, to:

- 688 (1) See that all laws and ordinances are enforced;
- 689 (2) Propose a budget for city operations from a zero base with input from the actual  
 690 expenditures of the city from the prior year;
- 691 (3) Appoint and employ all necessary employees of the city, provided that the power of  
 692 this appointment shall not include officers and employees who, by this charter, are  
 693 appointed or elected by the mayor and the city council or departments not under the  
 694 jurisdiction of the city manager;
- 695 (4) Remove employees appointed and employed under paragraph (3) of this section,  
 696 without the consent of the city council and without assigning any reason therefor;
- 697 (5) Exercise supervision and control of all departments and all divisions created in this  
 698 charter or that may hereafter be created by the city council except as otherwise provided  
 699 in this charter or specified by the city council;
- 700 (6) Attend all meetings of the city council, without a right to vote, but with a right to take  
 701 part in the discussions as seen fit by the chairperson; provided, however, that regardless  
 702 of the decision of the meeting chairperson, the city manager may take part in any

703 discussion and report on any matter requested and approved by the city council at such  
704 meeting. The city manager shall be entitled to notice of all special meetings;

705 (7) Recommend to the city council for adoption such measures as the city manager may  
706 deem necessary or expedient;

707 (8) See that all terms and conditions imposed in favor of the city or its inhabitants in any  
708 public utility franchise are faithfully kept and performed and, upon knowledge of any  
709 violation thereof, to call the same to the attention of the city attorney, whose duty it shall  
710 be forthwith to take such steps as are necessary to protect and enforce the same;

711 (9) Make and execute all lawful contracts on behalf of the city as to matters within the  
712 city manager's level of authorization as established by the city council to the extent that  
713 such contracts are funded in the city's budget, except such as may be otherwise provided  
714 by law; provided, however, that no contract purchase or obligation requiring a budget  
715 amendment shall be valid and binding until after approval of the city council;

716 (10) Sign all orders, checks, and warrants for payment of money within the city  
717 manager's level of authorization as established by the city council to the extent that such  
718 contracts are funded in the city's budget, except such as may be otherwise provided by  
719 law; provided, however, that no such order, check, or warrant requiring a budget  
720 amendment shall be valid and binding until after approval of the city council;

721 (11) Act as budget officer to prepare and submit to the city council, after review and  
722 comment by the mayor, prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, a budget of proposed  
723 expenditures for the ensuing year, showing in as much detail as practicable the amounts  
724 allotted to each department of the city government and the reasons for such estimated  
725 expenditures;

726 (12) Keep the city council at all times fully advised as to the financial condition and  
727 needs of the city;

728 (13) Make a full written report to the city council on the fifteenth of each month showing  
729 the operations and expenditures of each department of the city government for the  
730 preceding month, and a synopsis of such reports shall be published by the city clerk;

731 (14) Fix all salaries and compensation of city employees in accordance with the city  
732 budget and the city pay and classification plan;

733 (15) Shall have the authority to transfer appropriations within a department, fund,  
734 service, strategy, or organizational unit, but only with the approval of the city council;  
735 and

736 (16) Perform such other duties as may be prescribed by this charter or required by  
737 ordinance or resolution of the city council.

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**SECTION 3.05.**

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City council interference with administration.

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Except for the purpose of inquiries and investigations under Section 2.08 of this charter, the city council or its members shall deal with city officers and employees who are subject to the direction or supervision of the city manager solely through the city manager or a designated agent, and neither the city council nor its members shall give orders to any such officer or employee, either publicly or privately.

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**SECTION 3.06.**

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City manager; removal.

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(a) The mayor and city council may remove the city manager from office for any reason in accordance with the following procedures:

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(1) The city council shall adopt by affirmative vote of a majority of all its members a preliminary resolution removing the city manager and may suspend the city manager from duty for a period not to exceed 45 days. A copy of the resolution shall be delivered promptly to the city manager;

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(2) Within five days after a copy of the resolution is delivered to the city manager, he or she may file with the city council a written request for a public hearing. This hearing shall be held at a city council meeting not earlier than 15 days nor later than 30 days after the request is filed. The city manager may file with the city council a written reply not later than five days before the hearing; and

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(3) The city council may adopt a final resolution of removal, which may be made effective immediately, by affirmative vote of four of its members at any time after five days from the date when a copy of preliminary resolution was delivered to the city manager, if he or she has not requested a public hearing, or at any time after the public hearing if he or she has requested one.

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(b) The city manager shall continue to receive his or her salary until the effective date of a final resolution of his or her removal. The action of the city council in suspending or removing the city manager shall not be subject to review by any court or agency.

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(c) If the city manager is suspended in accordance with subsection (a) of this section or becomes disabled and is unable to carry out the duties of the office or if the city manager dies, the acting city manager shall perform the duties of the city manager until the city manager's disability is removed or until the city manager is replaced. Removal of the city manager because of disability shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

772 **SECTION 3.07.**

773 Acting city manager.

774 (a) The mayor with the approval of the city council may appoint any person to exercise all  
 775 powers, duties, and functions of the city manager during the city manager's suspension under  
 776 subsection (a) of Section 3.06 of this charter, temporary absence from the city, or during the  
 777 city manager's disability.

778 (b) In the event of a vacancy in the office of city manager, the mayor may designate with the  
 779 approval of the city council a person as acting city manager, who shall exercise all powers,  
 780 duties, and functions of the city manager until a city manager is appointed.

781 **SECTION 3.08.**

782 City attorney.

783 The city council shall appoint the city attorney or attorneys, together with such assistant city  
 784 attorneys as may be deemed appropriate, and shall provide for the payment of such attorney  
 785 or attorneys for services rendered to the city. The rates or salary paid to any city attorney or  
 786 assistant city attorney shall be approved in advance by the city council. The city attorney  
 787 or attorneys shall be responsible for representing and defending the city in all litigation in  
 788 which the city is a party; may be the prosecuting officer in the municipal court if the city  
 789 elects to create a municipal court; shall attend the meetings of the city council as directed;  
 790 shall advise the city council, mayor, other officers, and employees of the city concerning  
 791 legal aspects of the city's affairs; and shall perform such other duties as may be required by  
 792 virtue of his or her position as city attorney. Except as provided in this charter, the city  
 793 attorney or attorneys shall review and sign all contracts and documents that bind the city but  
 794 shall not have the power to bind the city. In a conflict between the mayor and the city  
 795 council, the city attorney shall engage a separate outside firm to represent the interests of the  
 796 city council and mayor, respectively. Notwithstanding any law or ordinance to the contrary,  
 797 the city attorney shall not represent the interest of the city council or the mayor against the  
 798 other. Unless the litigation allegations specify individual wrongdoing by an individual  
 799 member of the city council or the mayor, the outside firm shall be able to represent the entity  
 800 rather than the individual and separate attorneys for the individuals of the city council shall  
 801 not be necessary.

802 **SECTION 3.09.**

803 City clerk.

804 The city council shall appoint a city clerk to keep a journal of the proceedings of the city  
805 council; to maintain in a safe place all records and documents pertaining to the affairs of the  
806 city; and to perform such duties as may be required by law or ordinance or as the mayor or  
807 city manager may direct.

808 **SECTION 3.10.**

809 Tax collector.

810 The mayor may appoint a tax collector, subject to confirmation by the city council, to collect  
811 all taxes, licenses, fees, and other moneys belonging to the city subject to the provisions of  
812 this charter and the ordinances of the city; and the tax collector shall diligently comply with  
813 and enforce all general laws of Georgia relating to the collection, sale, or foreclosure of taxes  
814 by municipalities.

815 **SECTION 3.11.**

816 City accountant.

817 The city council shall appoint a city accountant to perform the duties of an accountant.

818 **SECTION 3.12.**

819 City internal auditor.

820 The city council shall appoint an internal auditor to audit the financial records and  
821 expenditures of city funds and to report the results of such audits in writing to the city  
822 council at times and intervals set by the city council but no less than quarterly. Such audit  
823 reports shall, at a minimum, identify all city expenditures and other financial matters that the  
824 internal auditor either determines are not in compliance with or cannot conclusively be  
825 determined to be in compliance with: (1) the provisions of this charter; (2) the applicable city  
826 budget; and (3) applicable ordinances, resolutions, or other actions duly adopted or approved  
827 under the provisions of this charter.

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**SECTION 3.13.**

829

Consolidation of functions.

830 The city manager, with the approval of the city council, may consolidate any two or more of  
 831 the positions of city clerk, city tax collector, and city accountant, or any other positions, or  
 832 may assign the functions of any one or more of such positions to the holder or holders of any  
 833 other positions. The city manager may also, with the approval of the city council, perform  
 834 all or any part of the functions of any of the positions or offices in lieu of the appointment  
 835 of other persons to perform the same.

836

**SECTION 3.14.**

837

Position classification and pay plans; employment at will.

838 The city manager shall be responsible for the preparation of a position classification and a  
 839 pay plan which shall be submitted to the city council for approval. Such plan may apply to  
 840 all employees of the City of Winship and any of its agencies and offices. When a pay plan  
 841 has been adopted by the city council, neither the city council nor the city manager shall  
 842 increase or decrease the salaries of individual employees except in conformity with such pay  
 843 plan or pursuant to an amendment of such pay plan duly adopted by the city council. Except  
 844 as otherwise provided in this charter, all employees of the city shall be subject to removal or  
 845 discharge, with or without cause, at any time.

846

**ARTICLE IV**

847

**MUNICIPAL COURT**

848

**SECTION 4.01.**

849

Creation.

850 The city council may establish by ordinance a court to be known as the Municipal Court of  
 851 the City of Winship which shall have jurisdiction and authority to try offenses against the  
 852 laws and ordinances of such city and to punish for a violation of such laws or ordinances.  
 853 Such court shall have the power to enforce its judgments by the imposition of such penalties  
 854 as may be provided by law, including ordinances of the city; to punish witnesses for  
 855 nonattendance and to punish also any person who may counsel or advise, aid, encourage, or  
 856 persuade another whose testimony is desired or material in any proceeding before such court  
 857 to go or move beyond the reach of the process of the court; to try all offenses within the  
 858 territorial limits of the city constituting traffic cases which, under the laws of Georgia, are  
 859 placed within the jurisdiction of municipal courts to the extent of, and in accordance with,

860 the provisions of such laws and all laws subsequently enacted amendatory thereof. Such  
 861 court shall be presided over by a judge of such court pursuant to Chapters 32 through 45  
 862 and 60 through 76 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A. The provisions of this article shall apply only  
 863 upon the creation of the municipal court.

864 **SECTION 4.02.**

865 Judges.

866 (a) There shall be at least one judge of the municipal court and that judge shall be designated  
 867 as the chief judge with the authority to direct the court calendar, recommend associate judges  
 868 to the city council, sit in presiding matters, discipline the city solicitors, and enforce all the  
 869 powers of a judicial officer pursuant to Chapter 1 of Title 15 of the O.C.G.A.

870 (b) No person shall be qualified or eligible to serve as a judge unless he or she shall have  
 871 attained the age of 28 years and shall have been a member of the State Bar of Georgia for a  
 872 minimum of seven years. The judge or judges shall be nominated by the mayor subject to  
 873 approval by the city council. The compensation and number of the judges shall be fixed by  
 874 the city council.

875 (c) Before entering on duties of his or her office, a judge shall take an oath before an officer  
 876 duly authorized to administer oaths in this state declaring that he or she will truly, honestly,  
 877 and faithfully discharge the duties of his or her office to the best of his or her ability without  
 878 fear, favor, or partiality. The oath shall be entered upon the minutes of the city council.

879 (d) A judge shall serve for a term of four years but may be removed from the position by a  
 880 two-thirds' vote of the entire membership of the city council or shall be removed upon action  
 881 by the State Judicial Qualifications Commission for:

- 882 (1) Willful misconduct in office;  
 883 (2) Willful and persistent failure to perform duties;  
 884 (3) Habitual intemperance;  
 885 (4) Conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice which brings the judicial office  
 886 into disrepute; or  
 887 (5) Disability seriously interfering with the performance of duties, which is, or is likely  
 888 to become, of a permanent character.

889 **SECTION 4.03.**

890 Convening.

891 The municipal court shall be convened at such times as designated by ordinance or at such  
 892 times as deemed necessary by the judge to keep current the dockets thereof.

893

**SECTION 4.04.**

894

Jurisdiction; powers.

895 (a) The municipal court shall try and punish for crimes against the City of Winship and for  
 896 violations of its ordinances. The municipal court may fix punishment for offenses within its  
 897 jurisdiction to the fullest extent allowed by state law.

898 (b) The municipal court shall have authority to recommend to the city council for approval  
 899 a schedule of fees to defray the cost of operation.

900 (c) The municipal court shall have authority to establish bail and recognizances to ensure  
 901 the presence of those charged with violations before such court and shall have discretionary  
 902 authority to accept cash or personal or real property as security for appearances of persons  
 903 charged with violations. Whenever any person shall give bail for his or her appearance and  
 904 shall fail to appear at the time fixed for trial, the bond shall be forfeited to the judge presiding  
 905 at such time and an execution issued thereon by serving the defendant and his or her sureties  
 906 with a rule nisi at least two days before a hearing on the rule nisi. In the event that cash or  
 907 property is accepted in lieu of bond for security for the appearance of a defendant at trial, and  
 908 if such defendant fails to appear at the time and place fixed for trial, the cash so deposited  
 909 shall be on order of the judge declared forfeited to the City of Winship, or the property so  
 910 deposited shall have a lien against it for the value forfeited.

911 (d) The municipal court shall have the authority to bind prisoners over to the appropriate  
 912 court when it appears, by probable cause, that a state law has been violated.

913 (e) The municipal court shall have the authority to administer oaths and to perform all other  
 914 acts necessary or proper to the conduct of such court.

915 (f) The municipal court may compel the presence of all parties necessary to a proper disposal  
 916 of each case by the issuance of summons, subpoena, and warrants which may be served as  
 917 executed by any officer as authorized by this charter or by state law.

918 (g) The municipal court is specifically vested with all of the judicial jurisdiction and judicial  
 919 powers throughout the entire area of the City of Winship granted by state laws generally to  
 920 municipal courts, and particularly by such laws as authorize the abatement of nuisances.

921

**SECTION 4.05.**

922

Certiorari.

923 The right of certiorari from the decision and judgment of the municipal court shall exist in  
 924 all criminal cases and ordinance violation cases, and such certiorari shall be obtained under  
 925 the sanction of a judge of the Superior Court of DeKalb County under the laws of the State  
 926 of Georgia regulating the granting and issuance of writs of certiorari.

927 **SECTION 4.06.**

928 Rules for court.

929 With the approval of the city council, the judge or judges shall have full power and authority  
930 to make reasonable rules and regulations necessary and proper to secure the efficient and  
931 successful administration of the municipal court.

932

933 **ARTICLE V**

934 **FINANCE AND FISCAL**

935 **SECTION 5.01.**

936 Fiscal year.

937 The city council shall set the fiscal year by ordinance. Such fiscal year shall constitute the  
938 budget year and the year for financial accounting and reporting of each and every office,  
939 department or institution, agency, and activity of the city government, unless otherwise  
940 provided by state or federal law.

941 **SECTION 5.02.**

942 Preparation of budgets.

943 The city council shall provide, by ordinance, the procedures and requirements for the  
944 preparation and execution of an annual operating budget and a capital budget, including  
945 requirements as to the scope, content, and form of such budgets and programs.

946 **SECTION 5.03.**

947 Submission of operating budget to city council.

948 (a) On or before a date fixed by the city council, but not later than the first day of the ninth  
949 month of the fiscal year currently ending, the city manager shall, after input, review, and  
950 comment by the mayor, submit to the city council a proposed operating budget and capital  
951 budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall be accompanied by a message from the  
952 mayor and city manager containing a statement of the general fiscal policies of the city, the  
953 important features of the budget, explanations of major changes recommended for the next  
954 fiscal year, a general summary of the budget, and such other comments and information as  
955 they may deem pertinent. The operating budget, the capital budget, the budget message, and  
956 all supporting documents shall be filed in the office of the city manager and shall be open to  
957 public inspection.

958 (b) Prior to passage of the budget, the city council shall hold a special public hearing at  
 959 which the budget shall be presented and public comment on the budget shall be solicited.  
 960 The date, time, and place of the special public hearing shall be announced no less than  
 961 30 days prior to the scheduled date for such hearing.

962 (c) All unencumbered balances of appropriations in the current operating budget at the end  
 963 of the fiscal year shall lapse into the unappropriated surplus or reserves of the fund or funds  
 964 from which such appropriations were made. When a supplemental appropriation is certified  
 965 by the city manager to exist, these appropriations may be spent during the current fiscal year  
 966 following passage of a supplemental appropriation ordinance.

967 **SECTION 5.04.**

968 Action by city council on budget.

969 (a) The city council may amend the operating budget or capital budget proposed by the city  
 970 manager in accordance with subsection (a) of Section 5.03 of this charter, except that the  
 971 budget, as finally amended and adopted, shall provide for all expenditures required by law  
 972 or by other provisions of this charter and for all debt service requirements for the ensuing  
 973 fiscal year; and the total appropriations from any fund shall not exceed the estimated fund  
 974 balance, reserves, and revenues constituting the fund availability of such fund.

975 (b) The city council shall adopt a budget on or before the first day of the eleventh month of  
 976 the fiscal year currently ending. If the city council fails to adopt the budget by the prescribed  
 977 deadline, the operating budget and capital budget proposed by the mayor and city manager  
 978 shall be adopted without further action by the city council.

979 **SECTION 5.05.**

980 Procurement and property management.

981 No contract with the city shall be binding on the city unless it is in writing. The city council  
 982 may adopt procedures for the authorization of certain contracts without the city attorney's  
 983 signature or city council approval. Absent the foregoing, no contract with the city shall be  
 984 binding on the city unless:

- 985 (1) It is drawn or submitted and reviewed by the city attorney and, as a matter of course,  
 986 is signed by the city attorney to indicate such drafting or review; and  
 987 (2) It is made or authorized by the city council and such approval is entered in the city  
 988 council journal of proceedings.

989 **SECTION 5.06.**

990 Purchasing.

991 The city council shall by ordinance prescribe procedures for a system of centralized  
992 purchasing for the city.

993 **SECTION 5.07.**

994 External audits.

995 (a) There shall be an annual independent audit of all city accounts, funds, and financial  
996 transactions by a certified public accountant selected by the city council. The audit shall be  
997 conducted according to generally accepted accounting principles. Any audit of any funds by  
998 the state or federal government may be accepted as satisfying the requirements of this  
999 charter. Copies of all audit reports shall be available at printing cost to the public.

1000 (b) As a minimum, all audits and budgets of the city shall satisfy the requirements of  
1001 Chapter 81 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., relating to local government audits and budgets.

1002 (c) The city council shall appoint the external auditor.

1003 **SECTION 5.08.**

1004 Homestead exemption; freeze.

1005 (a) As used in this section, the term:

1006 (1) "Ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes" means all municipal ad valorem taxes for  
1007 municipal purposes levied by, for, or on behalf of the City of Winship, including, but not  
1008 limited to, ad valorem taxes to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded  
1009 indebtedness.

1010 (2) "Base year" means the taxable year immediately preceding the taxable year in which  
1011 the exemption under this section is first granted to the most recent owner of such  
1012 homestead.

1013 (3) "Homestead" means homestead as defined and qualified in Code Section 48-5-40 of  
1014 the O.C.G.A., as amended, with the additional qualification that it shall include not more  
1015 than five contiguous acres of homestead property.

1016 (b) Each resident of the City of Winship is granted an exemption on that person's homestead  
1017 from City of Winship ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in an amount equal to the  
1018 amount by which the current year assessed value of that homestead exceeds the base year  
1019 assessed value of that homestead. This exemption shall not apply to taxes assessed on  
1020 improvements to the homestead or additional land that is added to the homestead after

1021 January 1 of the base year. If any real property is added to or removed from the homestead,  
 1022 the base year assessed value shall be adjusted to reflect such addition or removal, and the  
 1023 exemption shall be recalculated accordingly. The value of that property in excess of such  
 1024 exempted amount shall remain subject to taxation.

1025 (c) A person shall not receive the homestead exemption granted by subsection (b) of this  
 1026 section unless the person or person's agent files an application with the governing authority  
 1027 of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, giving such information relative to receiving  
 1028 such exemption as will enable the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee  
 1029 thereof, to make a determination regarding the initial and continuing eligibility of such owner  
 1030 for such exemption. The governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof,  
 1031 shall provide application forms for this purpose.

1032 (d) The exemption shall be claimed and returned as provided in Code Section 48-5-50.1 of  
 1033 the O.C.G.A., as amended. The exemption shall be automatically renewed from year to year  
 1034 so long as the owner occupies the residence as a homestead. After a person has filed the  
 1035 proper application as provided in subsection (c) of this section, it shall not be necessary to  
 1036 make application thereafter for any year, and the exemption shall continue to be allowed to  
 1037 such person. It shall be the duty of any person granted the homestead exemption under  
 1038 subsection (b) of this section to notify the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the  
 1039 designee thereof, in the event that person for any reason becomes ineligible for that  
 1040 exemption.

1041 (e) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to or affect state  
 1042 ad valorem taxes, county ad valorem taxes for county purposes, or county or independent  
 1043 school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes. The homestead exemption granted  
 1044 by subsection (b) of this section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other homestead  
 1045 exemption applicable to municipal ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

1046 (f) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall apply to all taxable years  
 1047 beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

#### 1048 **SECTION 5.09.**

#### 1049 Homestead exemption; senior citizens; disabled.

1050 (a) As used in this section, the term:

1051 (1) "Ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes" means all ad valorem taxes for municipal  
 1052 purposes levied by, for, or on behalf of the City of Winship, including, but not limited to,  
 1053 any ad valorem taxes to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness.

1054 (2) "Homestead" means homestead as defined and qualified in Code Section 48-5-40 of  
 1055 the O.C.G.A., as amended.

1056 (3) "Income" means Georgia taxable net income determined pursuant to Chapter 7 of  
1057 Title 48 of the O.C.G.A., as amended, for state income tax purposes, except income shall  
1058 not include income received as retirement, survivor, or disability benefits under the  
1059 federal Social Security Act or under any other public or private retirement, disability, or  
1060 pension system, except such income which is in excess of the maximum amount  
1061 authorized to be paid to an individual and such individual's spouse under the federal  
1062 Social Security Act. Income from such sources in excess of such maximum amount shall  
1063 be included as income for the purposes of this charter.

1064 (4) "Senior citizen" means a person who is 65 years of age or over on or before January 1  
1065 of the year in which application for the exemption under subsection (b) of this section is  
1066 made.

1067 (b) Each resident of the City of Winship who is disabled or is a senior citizen is granted an  
1068 exemption on that person's homestead from City of Winship ad valorem taxes for municipal  
1069 purposes in the amount of \$14,000.00 of the assessed value of that homestead. The  
1070 exemption granted by this subsection shall only be granted if that person's income, together  
1071 with the income of the spouse who also occupies and resides at such homestead, does not  
1072 exceed \$15,000.00 for the immediately preceding year. The value of that property in excess  
1073 of such exempted amount shall remain subject to taxation.

1074 (c)(1) In order to qualify for the exemption provided for in subsection (b) of this section  
1075 due to being disabled, the person claiming such exemption shall be required to obtain a  
1076 certificate from not more than three physicians licensed to practice medicine under  
1077 Chapter 34 of Title 43 of the O.C.G.A., as amended, certifying that, in the opinion of  
1078 such physician or physicians, such person is mentally or physically incapacitated to the  
1079 extent that such person is unable to be gainfully employed and that such incapacity is  
1080 likely to be permanent. Such certificate or certificates shall constitute part of and be  
1081 submitted with the application provided for in paragraph (2) of this subsection.

1082 (2) A person shall not receive the homestead exemption granted by subsection (b) of this  
1083 section unless the person or person's agent files an application with the governing  
1084 authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, giving the person's age, income,  
1085 and such additional information relative to receiving such exemption as will enable the  
1086 governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, to make a  
1087 determination regarding the initial and continuing eligibility of such owner for such  
1088 exemption. The governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, shall  
1089 provide application forms for this purpose.

1090 (d) The exemption shall be claimed and returned as provided in Code Section 48-5-50.1 of  
1091 the O.C.G.A., as amended. The exemption shall be automatically renewed from year to year  
1092 so long as the owner occupies the residence as a homestead. After a person has filed the

1093 proper application, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, it shall not be necessary to  
 1094 make application thereafter for any year and the exemption shall continue to be allowed to  
 1095 such person. It shall be the duty of any person granted the homestead exemption under  
 1096 subsection (b) of this section to notify the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the  
 1097 designee thereof, in the event that person for any reason becomes ineligible for that  
 1098 exemption.

1099 (e) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to or affect state  
 1100 ad valorem taxes, county ad valorem taxes for county purposes, or county or independent  
 1101 school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes. The homestead exemption granted  
 1102 by subsection (b) of this section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other homestead  
 1103 exemption applicable to municipal ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

1104 (f) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall apply to all taxable years  
 1105 beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

## 1106 **SECTION 5.10.**

### 1107 Homestead exemption; general.

1108 (a) As used in this section, the term:

1109 (1) "Ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes" means all ad valorem taxes for municipal  
 1110 purposes levied by, for, or on behalf of the City of Winship, including, but not limited to,  
 1111 any ad valorem taxes to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness.

1112 (2) "Homestead" means homestead as defined and qualified in Code Section 48-5-40 of  
 1113 the O.C.G.A., as amended.

1114 (b) Each resident of the City of Winship is granted an exemption on that person's homestead  
 1115 from City of Winship ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes in the amount of \$10,000.00  
 1116 of the assessed value of that homestead. The value of that property in excess of such  
 1117 exempted amount shall remain subject to taxation.

1118 (c) A person shall not receive the homestead exemption granted by subsection (b) of this  
 1119 section unless the person or person's agent files an application with the governing authority  
 1120 of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, giving such information relative to receiving  
 1121 such exemption as will enable the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee  
 1122 thereof, to make a determination regarding the initial and continuing eligibility of such owner  
 1123 for such exemption. The governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof,  
 1124 shall provide application forms for this purpose.

1125 (d) The exemption shall be claimed and returned as provided in Code Section 48-5-50.1 of  
 1126 the O.C.G.A., as amended. The exemption shall be automatically renewed from year to year  
 1127 so long as the owner occupies the residence as a homestead. After a person has filed the

1128 proper application, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, it shall not be necessary to  
 1129 make application thereafter for any year and the exemption shall continue to be allowed to  
 1130 such person. It shall be the duty of any person granted the homestead exemption under  
 1131 subsection (b) of this section to notify the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the  
 1132 designee thereof, in the event that person for any reason becomes ineligible for that  
 1133 exemption.

1134 (e) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to or affect state  
 1135 ad valorem taxes, county ad valorem taxes for county purposes, or county or independent  
 1136 school district ad valorem taxes for educational purposes. The homestead exemption granted  
 1137 by subsection (b) of this section shall be in addition to and not in lieu of any other  
 1138 homestead exemption applicable to municipal ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes.

1139 (f) The exemption granted by subsection (b) of this section shall apply to all taxable years  
 1140 beginning on or after January 1, 2017.

#### 1141 **SECTION 5.11.**

#### 1142 Homestead exemption; surviving spouses.

1143 (a) As used in this section, the term:

1144 (1) "Ad valorem taxes for municipal purposes" means all ad valorem taxes for municipal  
 1145 purposes levied by, for, or on behalf of the City of Winship, including, but not limited to,  
 1146 ad valorem taxes to pay interest on and to retire municipal bonded indebtedness.

1147 (2) "Homestead" means homestead as defined and qualified in Code Section 48-5-40 of  
 1148 the O.C.G.A., as amended.

1149 (3) "Unremarried surviving spouse" of a member of the armed forces includes the  
 1150 unmarried widow or widower of a member of the armed forces who is receiving spousal  
 1151 benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

1152 (b) Any person who is a resident of the City of Winship and who is an unremarried surviving  
 1153 spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States, which member has been killed  
 1154 in or has died as a result of any war or armed conflict in which the armed forces of the United  
 1155 States engaged, whether under United States command or otherwise, shall be granted a  
 1156 homestead exemption from all City of Winship ad valorem taxation for municipal purposes  
 1157 in the amount of the greater of \$32,500.00 or the maximum amount which may be granted  
 1158 to a disabled veteran under Section 2102 of Title 38 of the United States Code, as amended.  
 1159 As of January 1, 2013, the maximum amount which may be granted to a disabled veteran  
 1160 under Section 2102 of Title 38 of the United States Code, as amended, is \$50,000.00. The  
 1161 exemption shall be on the homestead which the unremarried surviving spouse owns and  
 1162 actually occupies as a residence and homestead. In the event such surviving spouse

1163 remarries, such person shall cease to be qualified to continue the exemption under this Act  
1164 effective December 31 of the taxable year in which such person remarries. The value of all  
1165 property in excess of such exemption granted to such unremarried surviving spouse shall  
1166 remain subject to taxation.

1167 (c) In order to qualify for the exemption provided for in this Act, the unremarried surviving  
1168 spouse shall furnish to the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee  
1169 thereof, documents from the Secretary of Defense evidencing that such unremarried  
1170 surviving spouse receives spousal benefits as a result of the death of such person's spouse  
1171 who as a member of the armed forces of the United States was killed or died as a result of  
1172 a war or armed conflict while on active duty or while performing authorized travel to or from  
1173 active duty during such war or armed conflict in which the armed forces of the United States  
1174 engaged, whether under United States command or otherwise, pursuant to the Survivor  
1175 Benefit Plan under Subchapter II of Chapter 73 of Title 10 of the United States Code or  
1176 pursuant to any preceding or subsequent federal law which provides survivor benefits for  
1177 spouses of members of the armed forces who were killed or who died as a result of any war  
1178 or armed conflict.

1179 (d) An unremarried surviving spouse filing for the exemption under this section shall be  
1180 required to file with the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof,  
1181 information relative to marital status and such other information which the governing  
1182 authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, deems necessary to determine  
1183 eligibility for the exemption. Each unremarried surviving spouse shall file for the exemption  
1184 only once with the governing authority of the City of Winship or the designee thereof. Once  
1185 filed, the exemption shall automatically be renewed from year to year, except that the  
1186 governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, may require annually  
1187 that the holder of an exemption substantiate his or her continuing eligibility for the  
1188 exemption. It shall be the duty of any person granted the homestead exemption under this  
1189 section to notify the governing authority of the City of Winship, or the designee thereof, in  
1190 the event that person for any reason becomes ineligible for such exemption.

1191 (e) The exemption granted by this section shall be in lieu of and not in addition to any other  
1192 exemption from ad valorem taxation for municipal purposes which is equal to or lower in  
1193 amount than such exemption granted by this section. If the amount of any other exemption  
1194 from ad valorem taxation for municipal purposes applicable to any resident qualifying under  
1195 this section is greater than or is increased to an amount greater than the amount of the  
1196 applicable exemption granted by this section, such other exemption shall apply and shall be  
1197 in lieu of and not in addition to the exemption granted by this section.

1198 (f) The exemptions granted by this section shall apply to all tax years beginning on or after  
1199 January 1, 2017.

## ARTICLE VI

## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**SECTION 6.01.**

DeKalb county special services tax district.

For the taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2016, the adjusted ad valorem tax millage rate and amount for service charges or fees for district services for the Winship special services tax district shall be 0 percent. This section is enacted pursuant to the authority granted to the General Assembly under Section 1 of that local constitutional amendment providing that certain municipalities in DeKalb County shall constitute special services tax districts, Resolution Act No. 168; House Resolution No. 715-1916; Ga. L. 1978, p. 2468, to control the subject matter of such local constitutional amendment. Municipal services provided by DeKalb County for the City of Winship shall be established through intergovernmental agreements or established as otherwise authorized by statute.

**SECTION 6.02.**

Referendum and initial election.

(a) The election superintendent of DeKalb County shall call a special election for the purpose of submitting this Act to the qualified voters of the proposed City of Winship for approval or rejection. The superintendent shall set the date of such election for the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2015. The superintendent shall issue the call for such election at least 60 days prior to the date thereof. The superintendent shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official organ of DeKalb County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the words:

"( ) YES Shall the Act incorporating the City of Winship in DeKalb County  
( ) NO according to the charter contained in the Act and the homestead exemptions described in the Act be approved?"

All persons desiring to vote for approval of the Act shall vote "Yes," and all persons desiring to vote for rejection of the Act shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast on such question are for approval of the Act, it shall become of full force and effect as provided in this charter, otherwise it shall be void and of no force and effect. The initial expense of such election shall be borne by DeKalb County. Within two years after the elections if the incorporation is approved, the City of Winship shall reimburse DeKalb County for the actual cost of printing and personnel services for such election and for the initial election of the mayor and councilmembers pursuant to Section 2.02 of this charter. It shall be the duty of

1234 the superintendent to hold and conduct such election. It shall be his or her further duty to  
1235 certify the result thereof to the Secretary of State.

1236 (b) For the purposes of the referendum election provided for in subsection (a) of this section  
1237 and for the purposes of the special election of the City of Winship to be held on the date of  
1238 and in conjunction with the 2016 presidential preference primary, the qualified electors of  
1239 the City of Winship shall be those qualified electors of DeKalb County residing within the  
1240 corporate limits of the City of Winship as described by Appendix A of this charter. At  
1241 subsequent municipal elections, the qualified electors of the City of Winship shall be  
1242 determined pursuant to the authority of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia  
1243 Election Code."

1244 (c) Only for the purposes of holding and conducting the referendum election provided for  
1245 by subsection (a) of this section and holding and conducting the special election of the City  
1246 of Winship to be held on the date of and in conjunction with the 2016 presidential preference  
1247 primary, the election superintendent of DeKalb County is vested with the powers and duties  
1248 of the election superintendent of the City of Winship and the powers and duties of the  
1249 governing authority of the City of Winship.

### 1250 **SECTION 6.03.**

#### 1251 Effective dates and transition.

1252 (a) The initial mayor and councilmembers shall take the oath of office the next business day  
1253 after certification of the election of such officers and by action of any four members of the  
1254 governing authority may, prior to the first day of the second month immediately following  
1255 the 2016 presidential preference primary, meet and take actions binding on the city.

1256 (b) A period of time will be needed for an orderly transition of various government functions  
1257 from DeKalb County to the City of Winship. Accordingly, there shall be a two-year  
1258 transition period as allowed by law beginning at 12:01 A.M. on the first day of the second  
1259 month immediately following the 2016 presidential preference primary.

1260 (c) During such transition period, DeKalb County shall continue to provide within the  
1261 territorial limits of the city all government services and functions which DeKalb County  
1262 provided in 2015 and at the same actual direct cost and level of service, except to the extent  
1263 otherwise provided in this section; provided, however, that upon at least 30 days' prior  
1264 written notice to the governing authority of DeKalb County by the governing authority of the  
1265 City of Winship, responsibility for any such service or function shall be transferred to the  
1266 City of Winship. The governing authority of the City of Winship shall determine the date  
1267 of commencement of collection of taxes, fees, assessments, fines and forfeitures, and other

1268 moneys within the territorial limits of the city and the date upon which the City of Winship  
1269 is considered removed from the special services tax district.

1270 (d) During the transition period, the governing authority of the City of Winship may  
1271 generally exercise any power granted by this charter or general law, except to the extent that  
1272 a power is specifically and integrally related to the provision of a governmental service,  
1273 function, or responsibility not yet provided or carried out by the city.

1274 (e) During the transition period, all ordinances of DeKalb County shall remain applicable  
1275 within the territorial limits of the city unless otherwise amended, repealed, or replaced by the  
1276 City of Winship. Any transfer of jurisdiction to the City of Winship during or at the end of  
1277 the transition period shall not in and of itself abate any judicial proceeding pending in  
1278 DeKalb County or the pending prosecution of any violation of any ordinance of DeKalb  
1279 County.

1280 (f) During the transition period, the governing authority of the City of Winship may at any  
1281 time, without the necessity of any agreement by DeKalb County, commence to exercise its  
1282 planning and zoning powers; provided, however, that the city shall give the county notice of  
1283 the date on which the city will assume the exercise of such powers. Upon the governing  
1284 authority of the City of Winship commencing to exercise its planning and zoning powers, the  
1285 Municipal Court of the City of Winship shall immediately have jurisdiction to enforce the  
1286 planning and zoning ordinances of the city. The provisions of this subsection shall control  
1287 over any conflicting provisions of any other subsection of this section.

1288 (g) Effective upon the termination of the transition period, subsections (b) through (f) of this  
1289 section shall cease to apply except for the last sentence of subsection (e) which shall remain  
1290 effective. Effective upon the termination of the transition period, the City of Winship shall  
1291 be a full functioning municipal corporation and subject to all general laws of this state.

1292 **SECTION 6.04.**

1293 Directory nature of dates.

1294 It is the intention of the General Assembly that this Act be construed as directory rather than  
1295 mandatory with respect to any date prescribed in this Act. If it is necessary to delay any  
1296 action called for in this Act for providential cause or any other reason, it is the intention of  
1297 the General Assembly that the action be delayed rather than abandoned. Any delay in  
1298 performing any action under this Act, whether for cause or otherwise, shall not operate to  
1299 frustrate the overall intent of this Act. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, it is  
1300 specifically provided that, if it is not possible to hold the referendum election provided for  
1301 in Section 6.02 of this Act on the date specified in that section, then such referendum shall  
1302 be held as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable. If the referendum election provided

1303 for in Section 6.02 of this Act is conducted on or before the Tuesday after the first Monday  
1304 in November, 2015, the special election for the initial members of the governing authority  
1305 shall be conducted on the date specified in Section 2.02 of this Act. If the referendum  
1306 election provided for under Section 6.02 of this Act is conducted after the Tuesday after the  
1307 first Monday in November, 2015, then the special election for the initial members of the  
1308 governing authority shall be held as soon thereafter as is reasonably practicable, and the  
1309 commencement of the initial terms of office shall be delayed accordingly. If the first election  
1310 provided for in Section 2.02 of this Act occurs after the date of the 2016 presidential  
1311 preference primary, the city council shall be authorized to delay the dates otherwise specified  
1312 in Section 6.03 of this Act.

1313 **SECTION 6.05.**

1314 Charter commission.

1315 No later than three years after the inception of the City of Winship, the mayor and the city  
1316 council shall call for a charter commission to review the city's experience and recommend  
1317 to the General Assembly any changes to the charter. Members of the charter commission  
1318 shall be appointed as follows: one member by the mayor, one member by the city council,  
1319 and one member by each member of the Georgia House of Representatives and Georgia  
1320 Senate whose district lies wholly or partially within the corporate boundaries of the City of  
1321 Winship. All members of the charter commission shall reside in the City of Winship. The  
1322 commission shall complete the recommendations within the time frame required by the city  
1323 council.

1324 **SECTION 6.06.**

1325 Effective date.

1326 This Act shall become effective upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law  
1327 without such approval.

1328 **SECTION 6.07.**

1329 Repealer.

1330 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.

## 1331 APPENDIX A

## 1332 LEGAL DESCRIPTION

## 1333 CORPORATE LIMITS

## 1334 CITY OF WINSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA

1335 The corporate limits of the City of Winship shall include the areas specified as follows:

1336 For the purposes of this description, the term "VTD" shall mean and describe the same  
 1337 geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United  
 1338 States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations  
 1339 in the description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual  
 1340 Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United  
 1341 States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

## 1342 APPENDIX B

## 1343 LEGAL DESCRIPTION

## 1344 COUNCIL DISTRICTS

## 1345 CITY OF WINSHIP, DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA

1346 Plan:

1347 Plan Type: Local

1348 Administrator:

1349 User:

1350 District 001

1351 DeKalb County

1352 District 002

1353 DeKalb County

1354 District 003

1355 DeKalb County

1356 For the purposes of this plan:

1357 (1) The term "VTD" shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as  
 1358 provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census

1359 of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district  
 1360 description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual  
 1361 Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United  
 1362 States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia;

1363 (2) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the  
 1364 description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical  
 1365 boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial  
 1366 census of 2010 for the State of Georgia;

1367 (3) Any part of the City of Winship which is not included in any district described in  
 1368 this plan (Winship-p1-2015) shall be included within that district contiguous to such part  
 1369 which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of  
 1370 2010 for the State of Georgia; and

1371 (4) Any part of the City of Winship which is described in this plan (Winship-p1-2015)  
 1372 as being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such  
 1373 district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall  
 1374 instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least  
 1375 population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of  
 1376 Georgia.

1377 APPENDIX C

1378 CERTIFICATE AS TO MINIMUM STANDARDS  
 1379 FOR INCORPORATION OF A NEW MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

1380 I, Representative Michelle Henson, Georgia State Representative from the 86th District and  
 1381 the author of this bill introduced at the 2015 session of the General Assembly of Georgia,  
 1382 which grants an original municipal charter to the City of Winship, do hereby certify that this  
 1383 bill is in compliance with the minimum standards required by Chapter 31 of Title 36 of the  
 1384 O.C.G.A. in that the area embraced within the original incorporation in this bill is in all  
 1385 respects in compliance with the minimum standards required by Chapter 31 of Title 36 of the  
 1386 O.C.G.A. This certificate is executed to conform to the requirements of Code  
 1387 Section 36-31-5 of the O.C.G.A.

1388 So certified this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

1389

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Honorable Michelle Henson

Representative, 86th District

Georgia State House of Representatives