

- l) appoint, and be administratively responsible for all city employees, including their suspension or removal, except as otherwise provided by ordinance;
- m) be responsible for the administration of an employee appeals procedure as adopted by the commission.

ARTICLE IV
Neighborhood Councils

Section 4.01 - Purpose

There shall be seven (7) Neighborhood Councils, collectively comprising a Helena Citizens' Council. Operating independently from the city commission or city officials, the Helena Citizens' Council shall review and recommend actions relating to the annual budget, and make recommendations relating to future development of the city.

For federal and state programs requiring citizen participation, the Helena Citizens' Council may contract with the city for the pro-vision of citizen participation.

Section 4.02 - Composition, Boundaries, Election, Terms, Qualifications

1. The city commission shall, by ordinance, divide the City of Helena into seven (7) Neighborhood Council Districts.
2. Each Neighborhood District shall have a council composed of four (4) members elected to two (2) year terms at an election held with the city general election.
3. Members of a Neighborhood Council must be residents of the designated Neighborhood Council District.
4. In the event of a vacancy on the Neighborhood Council, the remaining members shall appoint a person eligible to hold the position to fill the vacancy until the next city general election. If there are no remaining members of a Neighborhood Council, the Helen Citizens' Council may appoint a person to fill the vacancy. A member's position is deemed to be vacant before the expiration of the term if so declared by the Helena Citizens' Council on the occurrence of either of the following:
 1. The member fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings of the Helena Citizens' Council without good cause; or
 2. The member ceases to be qualified to hold the position as prescribed in the rules adopted by a majority of the members of the Helena Citizens' Council.

5. All of the elected Neighborhood Council members shall together comprise a Helena Citizens' Council
6. Within thirty (30) days after election each Neighborhood Council shall meet to organize, and within sixty (60) days after election, the mayor shall convene the Neighborhood Councils for a meeting of the Helena Citizens' Council. At that meeting the Helena Citizens' Council shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary who shall take office immediately and proceed with business.
7. The Helena Citizens' Council shall cause a representative to attend each City Commission meeting and report back to the council.

**ARTICLE V
Nominations and Elections**

Section 5.01 - Procedures

The procedure for the nomination and election of all members of the city commission and the Helena Citizens' Council shall be as required by Montana law for non-partisan elections.

Section 5.02 - Date of Holding Elections

The dates of holding regular and special elections shall be as required by Montana law.

**ARTICLE VI
Initiative, Referendum, and Recall**

Section 6.01 - Initiative and Referendum

Procedures for initiative and referendum shall be as required by Montana law.

Section 6.02 - Recall Provision

Any member of the commission may be removed from office by the electors of Helena. Procedure for removal shall be as required by Montana law.

**ARTICLE VII
Amendment of Charter, Effective Date, and Severability**

Section 7.01 - Amendment of Charter

This charter may be amended only as provided by Montana law. A majority of those voting on the question shall be required for passage of a charter amendment.