The House Committee on Intragovernmental Coordination - Local Legislation offers the following substitute to HB 67:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

- 1 To provide for the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County; to provide for
- 2 boundaries and districts; to provide for powers and duties; to provide for organization,
- 3 qualifications, election, terms, and filling of vacancies; to provide for associated offices,
- 4 departments, and agencies; to provide for budgets and financial matters; to provide for a
- 5 transition period; to provide for the repeal of certain Acts; to provide for a referendum; to
- 6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8	ARTICLE I
9	Power of Unified Government
10	UNIFICATION, CREATION, BOUNDARIES, STATUS,
11	AND POWERS OF UNIFIED GOVERNMENT
12	SECTION 1-101.
13	Unification of county and city; creation of unified government.

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(a) The new government shall be known as the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Unified Government. This unification shall result in the creation and establishment of a single government with powers and jurisdiction throughout the territorial limits of Baldwin County, which single government shall supersede and replace the governments of the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County. Such county-wide government shall be a new political entity, a body politic and corporate, and a political subdivision of the state, to be known as "Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia," having all the governmental and corporate powers, duties, and functions heretofore held by and vested in the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County, and also the powers, duties, and functions provided in this charter. The unified government shall be a public corporation; shall have perpetual existence; shall adopt a common seal; shall, without the necessity or formality of a deed, bill of sale, or other instrument of transfer, own, possess, and hold all the properties of whatsoever kind or nature,

assets, contracts, franchises, things, rights, privileges, immunities, and real and personal property theretofore owned, possessed, enjoyed, or held by the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County; and by the name of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be capable of suing and being sued when authorized by this charter and by the Constitution and

- 30 laws of the State of Georgia. From and after the effective date of this charter, the political
- 31 subdivision known as Baldwin County, Georgia, and the municipal corporation known as the
- 32 City of Milledgeville, Georgia, shall be unified into the said new political entity created in
- 33 this charter.
- 34 (b) Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall encourage the meaningful involvement
- 35 in its operations of all citizens of Milledgeville-Baldwin County. This government shall
- 36 comply with the United States Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1972 as well as federal and state
- 37 employment law where applicable. State of Georgia home rule statutes shall also apply
- 38 where applicable.
- 39 (c) The unification of the governments of the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County is
- 40 authorized pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section III, Paragraph II(a) of the
- 41 Constitution of Georgia of 1983, as amended.
- 42 (d) When the term "Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission" or "commission" is used
- 43 in this charter, unless a contrary meaning is clearly apparent from the context, such term shall
- 44 include the mayor, vice mayor, and commissioners.

45 **SECTION 1-102.**

46 Boundaries.

- 47 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall embrace the total area included within the
- 48 existing territorial limits of Baldwin County as such limits are fixed and established on the
- 49 effective date of this charter. However, such limits may be altered and changed from time
- 50 to time as provided by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia pertaining to
- 51 counties.

52 **SECTION 1-103.**

53 Status as municipal corporation and county.

- 54 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be deemed to be both a municipal corporation
- and a county throughout the total territory of said government. It is the express intention of
- 56 this section to declare as a city and as a part of the unified government all of the area of
- 57 Baldwin County.

58 **SECTION 1-104.**

59 Powers.

60 (a) Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall have all powers of self-government

- authorized by the Constitution and not otherwise prohibited by the laws of Georgia.
- 62 (b) In addition to the foregoing, the unified government shall have and be vested with, to the
- same extent as if herein repeated, all rights, powers, duties, privileges, and authority that the
- 64 mayor and council of the City of Milledgeville or the Commission of Baldwin County, or
- both, have under the Constitution and general and local laws of the State of Georgia at the
- 66 time of adoption of this charter. This authority shall include, but shall not be limited to, the
- authority to adopt home rule ordinances and resolutions as provided in Article IX, Section II
- of the Constitution of the State of Georgia.
- 69 (c) In addition to the foregoing, the unified government shall have all rights, powers, duties,
- 70 privileges, and authority herein conferred or herein enlarged, and such other rights, powers,
- 71 duties, privileges, and authority as may be necessary and proper for carrying the same into
- execution, and also all rights, powers, duties, privileges, and authority, whether express or
- 73 implied, that may be now vested in or hereafter granted to counties or municipal
- 74 corporations, or both, by the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia, including the
- 75 powers vested in the unified government by this charter.
- 76 (d) The unified government, in addition to the rights, duties, powers, privileges, and
- authority expressly conferred upon it by this charter, shall have the right, duty, power,
- 78 privilege, and authority to exercise and enjoy all other powers, duties, functions, rights,
- 79 privileges, and immunities necessary and proper to promote or protect the safety, health,
- 80 peace, security, and general welfare of said government and its inhabitants and to exercise
- 81 all implied powers necessary to carry into execution all powers granted in this charter as fully
- and completely as if such powers were fully enumerated herein and to do and perform all of
- 83 the acts pertaining to its property, affairs, and local government which are necessary or
- 84 proper in the legitimate exercise of its corporate powers and governmental duties and
- 85 functions.
- 86 (e) No enumeration of any right, power, privilege, or authority provided in other sections of
- 87 this charter shall be construed as limiting or abolishing any right, power, and privilege or
- 88 authority set forth in this section.
- 89 (f) In addition to and supplementary to all other powers which it may possess, and by way
- 90 of illustration and not of limitation, the unified government shall have the powers specifically
- 91 enumerated in Section 8-114 of this charter.

92	SECTION 1-105.

93 Taxing districts.

- 94 (a) The unified government shall divide the county into two or more taxing districts which shall be known as "services districts"; provided, however, that at least one of such districts 95 96 shall be known as the general services district. The general services district shall embrace 97 the total geographic area of Milledgeville-Baldwin County. In addition, the board of 98 commissioners shall initially establish at least one urban services district which shall embrace 99 such territory for which provision is made by the commission for additional or higher levels 100 of services than are provided uniformly throughout the territory of the unified government. (b) Taxes shall be assessed, levied, and collected in accordance with the kind, character, 101 102 type, degree, and level of services provided by the government within such services districts; 103 and the rate and manner of taxation may vary in any one district from that in another or other 104 districts. 105 (c) The unified government may also establish special services districts which shall embrace 106 such territory or territories for which provision is made by the commission for additional or 107 higher levels of services provided by the unified government. 108 (d) In the establishment of future services district or districts, the commission shall hold one 109 or more public hearings thereon at which all interested persons affected thereby shall have an opportunity to be heard. Notice of the time, place, and date of such hearings shall be 110 111 published in the official legal organ of Milledgeville-Baldwin County at least once a week 112 during the two weeks immediately preceding the date of the hearing. 113 (e) The unified government shall be empowered to exercise and provide within the general 114 services district and within any urban and special services district established by this charter 115 or by ordinance of the commission those powers, functions, and services which have 116 previously been exercised and provided by Baldwin County or the City of Milledgeville, or 117 both; all powers, functions, and services authorized by this charter and any amendments thereto; and all powers, functions, and services which counties or municipal corporations, 118 119 or both, are now or are hereafter authorized to exercise under the Constitution and laws of 120 the State of Georgia. 121 (f) The unified government shall perform within the general services district those governmental duties, functions, and services which are generally available and accessible to all residents throughout the total area of said government.
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- (g) The unified government shall perform within its urban services districts those additional, 124
- 125 more comprehensive and intensive, and higher levels of governmental duties, functions, and
- services which benefit primarily the residents of such urban services districts. 126

The unified government shall perform within its special services districts those additionally selected, more comprehensive, intensive, and higher levels of governmental duties, functions, and services which benefit primarily the residents of such special services districts. (i) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, urban and special services districts of the unified government shall be created, expanded, merged, consolidated, or reduced only by an ordinance duly adopted by the commission under such general rules, procedures, regulations, requirements, and specifications as established by the commission; provided, however, that no new urban or special services district shall be created or existing urban or special services

136 district expanded, abolished, merged, consolidated, or reduced without providing an opportunity for interested persons to be heard by publishing a notice of a public hearing on 137 138

the proposed expansion, abolishment, merger, consolidation, reduction, or creation of an

urban or special services district in the official legal organ of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, 139 Georgia, at least once a week during the two weeks immediately preceding the date of 140

hearing. Such rules and regulations shall set forth the manner and method for the creation

142 of new urban and special services districts; the expansion, abolishment, consolidation,

reduction, or merger of existing urban or special services districts; requirements for defining 143

functions and policies for rendering services; changes in levels of services within existing

services districts; the transfer of territory from one services district to another; requirements

for defining boundaries of services districts; procedures for the expansion, abolishment, 146

147 reduction, or consolidation of existing services districts; and requirements for defining

148 boundaries of services districts.

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149 (j) The unified government is empowered to create new services and eliminate existing 150 services by the same procedures and methods stated in this section.

151 (k) Citizens of any area in the county may request additional services by petitioning the

unified government according to the rules, procedures, and guidelines established by the

unified government. The unified government shall hold public hearings as outlined in the

services district modification procedure stated in this section and shall consider all comments

received prior to reaching a final decision.

156 **SECTION 1-106.**

Construction. 157

The powers of the unified government shall be construed liberally in favor of the unified government. The specific mention or failure to mention particular powers in this charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general powers of the unified government as provided in this article. It is the intention hereof to grant to the unified government full

power and right to exercise all governmental authority authorized by the Constitution and laws of Georgia which is necessary for the effective operation and conduct of the unified government within its territory and for the conduct of all of its affairs.

ARTICLE II

Legislative Make-up

UNIFICATION, CREATION, BOUNDARIES, STATUS,

AND POWERS OF UNIFIED GOVERNMENT.

SECTION 2-101.

Organization, oath, rules, quorum, records; vice chair.

- (a)(1) The unified government provides for the creation of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission as its governing body.
 - (2)(A) The commission shall be composed of five commissioners elected from districts and a mayor and vice mayor who shall be elected at large. For the purpose of electing members of the commission, Milledgeville-Baldwin County shall be divided into five commissioner districts. One member of the commission shall be elected from each such district. The five commissioner districts shall be and correspond to those five numbered districts described in and attached to and made a part of this Act and further identified as "Plan: MillBaldCC-2015 Plan Type: Local Administrator: H145 User: Gina".
 - (B)(i) For the purposes of such plan:
 - (I) The term "VTD" shall mean and describe the same geographical boundaries as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia. The separate numeric designations in a district description which are underneath a VTD heading shall mean and describe individual Blocks within a VTD as provided in the report of the Bureau of the Census for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia; and (II) Except as otherwise provided in the description of any district, whenever the description of any district refers to a named city, it shall mean the geographical boundaries of that city as shown on the census maps for the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.
 - (ii) Any part of Milledgeville-Baldwin County which is not included in any district described in subparagraph (a)(2)(A) of this section shall be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

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(iii) Any part of Milledgeville-Baldwin County which is described in subparagraph (a)(2)(A) of this section as being included in a particular district shall nevertheless not be included within such district if such part is not contiguous to such district. Such noncontiguous part shall instead be included within that district contiguous to such part which contains the least population according to the United States decennial census of 2010 for the State of Georgia.

- (3) After the initial election of the mayor, vice mayor, and commission members as provided in Section 6-301 of this charter, the mayor, vice mayor, and commission members shall be elected to four-year terms of office and until their respective successors are elected and qualified. The Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission (also referred to as "commission", "board of commissioners", or "board") shall meet for organization and swearing in purposes on the first Tuesday after January 1 following its election or as soon thereafter practicable. At this meeting, the newly elected commissioners shall each take the following oath of office, to be administered by the judge of the probate court: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will well and truly perform the duties of commissioner of the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and that I will support and defend the charter thereof, as well as the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia and of the United States of America, so help me God."
- 214 (b) The commission, by majority vote, shall adopt rules of procedure governing the 215 transaction of its business consistent with the provisions of this charter; shall set by ordinance 216 the time, date, and place for regular meetings, which will be held at least once each month; 217 and shall provide for keeping minutes of its proceedings by the clerk as provided for by the 218 charter. The commission may opt to hold more than one regular monthly meeting or may 219 choose to hold a regular monthly work session. In either case, the number and type of 220 meeting shall be established annually by majority vote.
- (c) At its first organizational meeting, the commission shall select the date when it will hold
 its regular monthly meetings.
- 223 (d) Four of the seven members of the commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; however, a smaller number may adjourn from time to time.
- (e) Special meetings of the commission may be called by the mayor or by a quorum of 225 commissioners upon no less than 24 hour notice. Written notice of such meeting shall be 226 227 served personally on each member or left at the usual place of business or residence of such member. Such notice of a special meeting may be waived in writing either before or after 228 such meeting. Subject to subsection (d) of Code Section 50-14-1 of the O.C.G.A., special 229 230 meetings may be held at any time without notice to all commissioners, upon attendance at such meeting by all members of the commission, or by waiver of notice of those not in 231 232 attendance.

233 (f) All meetings of the commission, except for those exceptions provided for in general law,

shall be public; and any citizen shall have access to the minutes and records thereof at

reasonable times.

- 236 (g) In the absence of the mayor for any reason, the vice mayor shall preside over meetings
- and discharge the duties of mayor until either the return of the mayor or the election of a new
- 238 mayor. While serving as the mayor, the vice mayor shall have the same powers as the

239 mayor.

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240 **SECTION 2-102.**

Powers of the commission.

242 (a) All legislative powers of the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County,

243 Georgia, including any powers which may hereafter be conferred by law upon said

government, shall be vested exclusively in the mayor and the commission in accordance with

the provisions of this charter.

246 (b) The unified government, in addition to the rights, duties and powers, privileges, and

247 authority expressly conferred upon it by this charter, shall have the right, duty, power,

248 privilege, and authority to exercise and enjoy all other powers, duties, functions, rights,

249 privileges, and immunities necessary and proper to promote or protect the safety, health,

250 peace, security, and general welfare of said government and its inhabitants and to exercise

251 all implied powers necessary to carry into execution all powers granted in this charter as fully

and completely as if such powers were fully enumerated in this charter to do and perform all

the acts pertaining to its local affairs, property, and government that are necessary or proper

in the legitimate exercise of its corporate powers and governmental duties and functions.

255 (c) No repeal of any law under which the unified government derives any right, power,

privilege, or authority, except by amendment of this charter as provided in this charter, shall

be construed as limiting or abolishing any such right, power, privilege, or authority set forth

258 in this charter.

259 (d) The general laws of the State of Georgia of a criminal nature shall be applicable to and

260 within the limits of the unified government. General laws of local application through

261 classification by population not in conflict with this charter which, on the effective date of

262 this charter, apply to the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County which are applicable to the

263 unified government and which apply to the unified government as either a city or a county

at the time of their enactment or thereafter shall be effective, but those which did not apply

265 to the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County or the unified government at the time of their

enactment shall not become applicable to the unified government except through the

adoption of a resolution to that effect by the commission.

268 (e) Local Acts of the State of Georgia which apply specifically to Baldwin County, or the

- 269 City of Milledgeville, or both collectively, shall be applicable to the unified government.
- 270 (f) In construing the applicability of provisions of the Constitution and the general laws of
- 271 Georgia which apply in general terms to either counties or municipalities, or both, and local
- 272 Acts of the General Assembly that apply specifically to Baldwin County, the City of
- 273 Milledgeville, or all collectively, the following terms as used in such laws shall be construed
- 274 to include the unified government as follows:
- 275 (1) "Board of commissioners" shall be construed to include the commission of
- 276 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia;
- 277 (2) "City," "town," "municipal corporation," or "municipality" shall be construed to
- include Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia;
- 279 (3) "Council," "mayor," "mayor and council," and "county commissioners" shall be
- construed to include the commission of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; and
- (4) "County" means Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia.
- 282 Any other terms and provisions as used in such Acts to refer specifically to Baldwin County
- or the City of Milledgeville or both collectively shall include employees, departments, and
- agencies of such entities.
- 285 (g) In construing the applicability of laws in force to the unified government, the following
- order shall prevail:
- 287 (1) The Constitution of the State of Georgia;
- 288 (2) The general laws of uniform application now in force or hereafter enacted by the
- General Assembly, as distinguished from general laws of local application through
- classification by population, applicable to municipal corporations or counties or both;
- 291 (3) The general laws of local application through classification by population as and to
- the extent provided in subsection (b) of this section;
- 293 (4) Special laws applicable to Baldwin County, not in conflict with this charter;
- (5) Special laws applicable to the City of Milledgeville, not in conflict with this charter;
- 295 (6) This charter and all ordinances and resolutions passed pursuant thereto; and
- 296 (7) Existing ordinances and resolutions of the former City of Milledgeville and existing
- ordinances and resolutions of the former County of Baldwin not in conflict with this
- 298 charter
- 299 (h) The tort and nuisance liability of the unified government shall follow the law and rules
- 300 of tort liability applicable to counties in Georgia.
- 301 (i) For purposes of applicable laws, the unified government shall constitute a municipality
- and a county, or both. Except as otherwise provided by this charter, if a law applicable to
- 303 municipalities and the same or another law applicable to counties are in conflict, the law
- applicable to counties shall prevail.

305 (j) The unified government shall have the power and authority to participate in, cooperate in, and take all necessary action with respect to any and all projects, programs, and 306 307 undertakings of any nature authorized by any statute, rule, or regulation of the United States, 308 the State of Georgia, or any federal or state agency or instrumentality, including, but not 309 limited to, community development, highways, aviation, aviation terminals, airports, airport 310 facilities, municipal area or regional development, water and sewage disposal, public 311 housing, housing for the aged, and transportation or mass transit or any phase thereof; to borrow money and issue promissory notes, general obligation bonds, or revenue bonds, or 312 313 any combination thereof, for any such purposes in accordance with the provisions of this 314 charter; and to execute mortgages or deeds of trust in favor of any federal agency, secured by property of which the restructured government is the legal or beneficial or equitable 315 316 owner, or in favor of any private agency where the loan is guaranteed by a federal agency. 317 (k) In addition to its legislative powers, the commission shall specifically have the power 318 to:

- 319 (1) Adopt and, as needed, amend the annual balanced budget by a majority vote;
- (2) Approve or reject recommendations concerning the appointments of the manager and
 attorney by a majority vote;
- 322 (3) Remove from office the manager, attorney, or auditor by majority vote; and
- 323 (4) Suspend the rules by a majority vote.
- (l) In the exercise of its powers, the commission shall adopt and provide for the execution 324 325 of such ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations, not inconsistent with the charter, as 326 may be necessary or proper for the purpose of carrying into effect the powers conferred by 327 this charter and for the promotion and protection of the safety, health, peace, security, and general welfare of the inhabitants of the unified government and may enforce such 328 329 ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations by imposing penalties for violations thereof, 330 as prescribed by ordinance, by a fine that shall not to exceed \$1,000.00, or by imprisonment for a period not to exceed six months. 331
- 332 (m) Except as otherwise provided by the Constitution, general or local law, or this charter, 333 the commission may by ordinance create, change, alter, combine, abolish, consolidate, and redefine the manner of appointment, membership, powers, and duties of bureaus, boards, 334 commissions, departments, divisions, authorities, offices, and agencies of the unified 335 336 government, including positions of public office, and may transfer and delete functions and assign additional functions to any bureaus, offices, agencies, departments, divisions, boards, 337 authorities, commissions, and positions of public employment existing under this charter. 338 339 The commission may by ordinance transfer all the assets, liabilities, and obligations thereof to a department, a division, or other unit of a department of the unified government which 340 341 shall have the power and duty to perform and exercise all the functions and powers

342 previously performed and exercised by such previous board, commission, authority, division, agency, bureau, office, department, or position of public employment. This subsection shall 343 344 not apply to any authorities or boards which were created by either a local constitutional 345 amendment or by a local Act of the General Assembly. 346 (n) The commission shall have the power to conduct or cause to be conducted inquiries and 347 investigations of the operations of any office, department, or agency or the conduct of any officer or employee thereof administering the affairs of the unified government. 348 conducting inquiries and investigations, the commission shall have the right to administer 349 350 oaths; subpoena witnesses, documents, records or other evidence; take testimony; and require the production of evidence. The conduct of proceedings at commission inquiries and 351 352 investigations shall be subject to such rules and regulations as the commission may prescribe by general ordinance. 353 354 (o) The commission shall provide for the form of oaths and the amount and condition of surety bonds as may be required of any officer or employee of the unified government. 355 356 (p) The commission shall have and exercise such other powers as conferred upon it by this 357 charter and the laws of Georgia. 358 **SECTION 2-103.** 359 Filling of vacancies. 360 (a) In the event that the office of a member of the commission becomes vacant by reason of 361 death, resignation, or any other cause, and the term will expire in less than 180 days, the 362 vacant position shall be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the commission. 363 Any individual so appointed shall have the same qualifications required for election to the 364 office. 365 (b) If the term of the vacant commission position will continue for more than 180 days, a 366 special election shall be held as provided in this charter and general state law to elect a new member of the commission to serve for the remainder of the term. 367 **SECTION 2-201.** 368 369 Legislation by ordinance. Every official act of the commission which is to have the force and effect of law shall be by 370 ordinance and shall begin with the words: "The Commission of Milledgeville-Baldwin 371 County, Georgia, hereby ordains". All other acts of the commission shall be by resolution 372

or shall take such other form as prescribed by its rules.

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374	SECTION 2-202.
375	Introduction, consideration, and passage of ordinances and resolutions.
376	(a) Every proposed ordinance and every amendment shall contain not more than one subject
377	which shall be expressed clearly in its title.
378	(b) It shall be the duty of the attorney to review all ordinances prior to introduction to the
379	commission in order to discern the draftsmanship and impact of the proposed ordinance.
380	After such review, copies of such ordinance shall be prepared by the clerk of the commission
381	and distributed to each member of the commission.
382	(c) Every proposed ordinance shall be in writing, and each commissioner shall receive a
383	copy. Such proposed ordinance shall be introduced by reading the title thereof at a regular
384	monthly meeting or a properly called special meeting of the commission. Any new
385	ordinances or amended ordinances shall be introduced at one meeting and acted on at the
386	next or a later meeting. Rules may be suspended for exigent circumstances by majority vote.
387	Exigent circumstances shall be defined as natural disasters or any event affecting the public
388	order.
389	(d) The adoption of any ordinance shall require a majority vote.
390	(e) The passage of all ordinances shall be contingent upon the recording of the "ayes" and
391	"nays" of each person voting and the names of each person voting for and against each
392	proposed ordinance or amendment. The names of those abstaining and those absent shall be
393	entered upon the minutes of the proceedings of the commission.
394	SECTION 2-203.
395	Submission of ordinances to mayor; effective date.
396	Every ordinance or resolution adopted by the commission shall be certified by the clerk of
397	the commission and presented to the Milledgeville-Baldwin County mayor within two
398	business days following its adoption.
399	SECTION 2-204.
400	Authentication; recording.
401	The clerk of the commission shall authenticate by signature and record in full in a properly
402	indexed book kept for that purpose all ordinances and resolutions adopted by the
403	commission.

SECTION 2-205.

405 Codes of technical regulations.

(a) The commission may adopt any standard code of technical regulations by reference thereto in an adopting ordinance. The procedure and requirements governing such adopting ordinance shall be prescribed for ordinances generally, except that the requirements of subsection (c) of Section 2-202 of this charter for distribution of copies of the ordinance to each commission member shall be construed to include copies of the code of technical regulations. Copies of the code of technical regulations shall be maintained in the clerk's office, as well as the adopting ordinance, and shall be authenticated by the clerk as provided in Section 2-204 of this charter.

414 (b) Copies of any adopted code of technical regulations shall be made available by the clerk 415 for public inspection and for purchase at a reasonable price as fixed by the commission.

SECTION 2-206.

Codification and printing of ordinances.

(a) The commission shall, within two years of the effective date of this charter, provide for the preparation of general codification of all ordinances of a general or permanent nature. Such code shall be adopted by the commission by ordinance and shall be published promptly in loose-leaf form, together with all amendments thereto, this charter, and amendments hereto, and such codes of technical regulations and other rules and regulations as the commission may specify. This compilation shall be known and cited officially as the "Code of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia." As determined by the commission, copies of the code shall be furnished to officers, departments, and agencies of the unified government; placed in libraries and public offices for public reference; and made available for purchase by the public at a reasonable price.

(b) Following publication of the first Code of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, from

time to time thereafter, the ordinances and charter amendments shall be printed in

substantially the same style as the code then in effect and shall be in a suitable form for

431 integration therein.

432	SECTION 2-207.
433	Prima facie evidence.
434	A record or entry made by the clerk of commission of a copy of such record or entry, duly
435	certified by the clerk of commission, shall be prima facie evidence of the terms of every
436	ordinance and its due adoption.
437	SECTION 2-301.
438	Conflict of interest.
439	No elected official, appointed officer, or employee of Milledgeville-Baldwin County,
440	Georgia, or any agency or political entity to which this charter applies shall knowingly:
441	(1) Engage in any business or transaction in which the person has a financial interest
442	which is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties;
443	(2) Disclose confidential information concerning the property, government, or affairs of
444	the governmental body by which such person is engaged or is a member of without
445	proper legal authorization or use that information to advance the financial or other private
446	interest of such person or others;
447	(3) Accept any gift that has a value of \$100.00 or more from any person, firm, or
448	corporation which to his or her knowledge is interested, directly or indirectly, in business
449	dealings with the governmental body of which he or she is a member or by which such
450	person is engaged; provided, however, that an elected official who is a candidate for
451	public office may accept campaign contributions and services in connection with a
452	campaign;
453	(4) Represent private interests other than his or her own in any action or proceeding
454	against Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, or any portion of its government; or
455	(5) Vote or otherwise actively participate in the negotiation or the making of any contract
456	between Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and any business or entity in which he
457	or she has a financial interest.
458	SECTION 2-302.
459	Disclosure.
460	Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of the unified government or of any
461	board, commission, authority, or agency thereof who has any private financial interest, direct
462	or indirect, in any contract or matter pending before or within any department of the unified
463	government shall disclose such private interest to the commission. Any commissioner who

has a private interest in any matter pending before the commission shall disclose such private interest, and such disclosure shall be entered on the records of the commission; and he or she shall disqualify himself or herself from participating in any decision or vote relating thereto. Any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of any board, commission, authority, or agency of the unified government who has any private financial interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or matter pending before or within such entity shall disclose such private interest to the commission.

SECTION 2-303.

Testimony of public officials relating to public affairs.

Any officer or employee of the unified government or of any board, commission, authority, or agency thereof who is duly and properly called a witness before any unified government, state, or federal judicial or administrative tribunal, who before such tribunal fails to answer any proper question concerning his or her performance, shall be guilty of a violation of this charter; provided, however, that Garrity rights and fifth amendment constitutional protections are honored.

SECTION 2-304.

Contracts voidable and rescindable.

Any contract between the unified government or any board, commission, authority, agency, or entity thereof made in violation of the provisions of this charter shall be voidable or rescindable at the option of the commission at any time if any elected official, appointed officer, or employee of such unified government or board, commission, authority, or agency thereof has any interest in such contract and does not disclose such interest in accordance with Section 2-302 of this charter.

SECTION 2-305.

Hearings and determinations; penalties for violation.

(a) Upon the sworn complaint of any person alleging facts which, if true, would constitute a violation of this charter, the commission shall appoint an ethics committee consisting of three persons to consider such complaint. Such committee shall be selected by the commission from the following public officers of Milledgeville-Baldwin County: the clerk of superior court, the judge of the probate court, the tax commissioner, the district attorney, and the solicitor of the state court. The ethics committee may conduct a public hearing at

which the accused shall be given an opportunity to be heard, either personally or through 495 counsel. At the conclusion, based thereon, the committee shall make a determination 496 497 concerning the propriety of the conduct of the official or employee in question and shall 498 report such determination to the commission. If the ethics committee finds a violation, then the commission may impose such sanctions as if deems appropriate under this charter. 499 500 (b) Any officer or employee of the unified government or of any board, commission, 501 authority, or agency thereof who is found to have knowingly concealed his or her personal financial interest, or who is found to have knowingly violated any of the requirements of this 502 503 charter, shall be deemed guilty of malfeasance in office or position. If such decision is 504 upheld after all reviews and appeals provided by the unified government have been exhausted, the officer or employee shall be subject to such punishment as may be deemed 505 506 appropriate by the commission and which may include forfeiture of office or position. (c) Any officer or employee of the unified government or of any board, commission, 507 authority, or agency thereof who forfeits his or her office or position as described in 508 509 subsection (b) of this section shall be ineligible for appointment or election to or employment in a position in the unified government or of any board, commission, authority, or agency 510 thereof for a period of three years thereafter. 511 512 **SECTION 2-306.** Recall of elected officials. 513 514 Upon adoption of this charter, a process for recall of elected officials shall be established in 515 accordance with state law. 516 **SECTION 2-307.** 517 Code of ethics. Within three months after taking office, the initial Milledgeville-Baldwin County 518 Commission shall adopt a code of ethics for elected officials. 519 520 ARTICLE III UNIFIED GOVERNMENT HEAD 521 **SECTION 3-101.** 522 Head of government; election; term of office; qualification; disqualification. 523

(a) There is hereby created the office of Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission

chairperson who shall be known as the mayor. Except as otherwise provided for an initial

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term of office, this position shall be elected at large by the voters of the unified government and shall serve for a term of four years and until a successor is qualified and elected. 527 (b) Except as otherwise provided for initial terms of office, the term of office of all members 528 529 of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission shall be four years and until their successors are elected and qualified, except that a person appointed to fill a vacancy on the 530 531 commission shall serve only for the balance of the unexpired term as provided in 532 Section 2-103 of this charter. All terms of office shall commence at the first regular meeting in January following the election. 533

534 **SECTION 3-102.**

535 Salary and expenses.

- (a) The salary of each commissioner, other than the mayor and vice mayor, shall be 536
- \$15,000.00 per year, payable in equal monthly installments. The vice mayor's salary shall 537
- 538 be \$20,000.00 per year, payable in equal monthly installments.
- (b) In addition to their salaries, commissioners shall be reimbursed for all direct expenses 539
- incurred in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the unified government. 540
- 541 (c) The salary and expenses of members of the commission may be changed by ordinance,
- 542 subject to the following conditions:
- (1) No action to increase the salary or expenses of commissioners shall be taken until 543
- 544 notice of intent to take the action has been published in the official legal organ of
- 545 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, at least once a week for three successive weeks
- 546 immediately preceding the week during which the action is taken;
- 547 (2) Salary increases shall not take effect until after the next commission is elected and
- 548 seated; and

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- 549 (3) Increases in expense reimbursements shall take effect upon the affirmative action of
- the commission. 550

SECTION 3-103. 551

Qualifications of office. 552

- (a) To be eligible for election to the office of mayor or vice mayor, a person, on the date of 553
- his or her election, shall: 554
- (1) Have attained the age of 25 years; 555
- (2) Have resided in the territory of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, for at least 556
- one year immediately preceding the date of election and shall continue such residence 557
- therein during the term of office; 558

- 15 LC 28 7432S (3) Be a registered voter of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; and 559 560 (4) Meet any other requirements as established by law. (b) To be eligible for election to the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission, a person, 561 562 on the date of his or her election, shall: 563 (1) Have attained the age of 21 years; (2) Have resided in the territory of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, for at least 564 one year immediately preceding the date of election and shall continue such residence 565 therein during the term of office and shall have resided in their election district for at least 566 567 one year; (3) Be a registered voter of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; and 568 (4) Meet any other requirements as established by law. 569 (c) No person elected to the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission or as mayor or vice 570 mayor shall, during that person's term of office, hold any other federal, state, or local elective 571 572 government office. **SECTION 3-104.** 573 574 Compensation for mayor. 575 (a) The mayor shall receive as compensation for the services of the office an annual salary of \$35,000.00, payable in equal monthly installments. 576 577 (b) In addition to such salary, the mayor shall be reimbursed for all direct expenses incurred 578 in carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the unified government.
- 579 (c) The salary and expenses of the mayor may be changed by ordinance, subject to the 580 following conditions:
- 581 (1) No action to increase the salary shall be taken until notice of intent to take the action has been published in the official legal organ of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, 582 at least once a week for three successive weeks immediately preceding the week during 583
- which the action is taken; 584
- (2) Salary increases shall not take effect until after the next commission is elected and 585 586 seated; and
- (3) Increases in expense reimbursement shall take effect upon the affirmative action of 587 588 the commission.

15 LC 28 7432S 589 **SECTION 3-105.** 590 Powers and duties of mayor. 591 The mayor shall: (1) Serve as the official representative of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, 592 593 including serving as the unified government's representative to federal, state, and local 594 governmental bodies and officials; (2) Appoint a county manager, who shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of the 595 596 commission; (3) Initiate the process, with the involvement of commissioners and appropriate staff, to 597 search and screen candidates for the positions of attorney, auditor, and commission clerk 598 599 and appoint candidates for such positions subject to confirmation by a majority vote of 600 the entire commission; (4) Remove the county manager, attorney, commission clerk, and auditor for cause 601 602 subject to the concurrence by a majority of the entire commission; (5) Set the agenda, after receiving input from members of the commission, the county 603 manager, and the public, for meetings of the commission; 604 605 (6) Make committee appointments; provided, however, that all standing and appointed 606 committees shall be recommending bodies with the ability to recommend actions to the commission with the full commission retaining the authority to act; 607 608 (7) Present the annual budget and the capital improvements budget, which shall be 609 prepared by the county manager with the assistance of all department and agency heads 610 and all others who supervise the implementation of a budget that uses funds of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, for approval by the commission; 611 612 (8) Be authorized to vote on any issue before the commission and shall vote in the event 613 of a tie vote by the commission; (9) Call special meetings of the commission as provided by this charter and by rules of 614 615 the commission; (10) Execute all deeds, contracts, and obligations of the unified government, provided 616

such execution shall be attested to by the county manager;

618 (11) Recommend to the commission the adoption of such measures as deemed necessary 619 or expedient;

620 (12) 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; and

622 (13) Preside over meetings of the commission.

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623 **SECTION 3-106.**

Vacancy in office of mayor.

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(a) In the event that the office of mayor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or
any other means, the vice mayor shall serve as the mayor with all the powers of the mayor
for the unexpired term of office of the mayor if there are 180 days or less remaining in such
term of office.
(b) If there are more than 180 days remaining in the mayor's term of office, a special election
shall be held as soon as practicable as provided by general law to elect a new mayor for the
remainder of the vacant term. The vice mayor shall serve as the mayor until such special

ARTICLE IV

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

SECTION 4-101.

Milledgeville-Baldwin county manager; appointment;
qualifications; compensation.

election is held and a successor for the mayor is elected and qualified.

- (a) There may be a professional manager who shall be known as the county manager of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. If appointed, the county manager shall be the full-time administrative officer of the unified government. A county manager may be appointed by the mayor recommending a candidate to the commission for the office of county manager and the commission confirming such recommendation. No person holding an elective office on the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission shall be eligible for this appointment until two years after leaving elective office. Such recommendation shall become effective when confirmed by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission. The county manager shall be prohibited from engaging in any political activity and shall not be eligible to qualify as a candidate for an elective office in the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission for one year after leaving office. The county manager at any time may be removed from office by a majority vote of the entire commission.
- 651 (b) Whenever the office of the manager is vacant, the mayor may recommend a person to 652 serve as acting manager until a new manager is appointed, subject to approval by a majority 653 vote of the entire commission and subject to reappointment thereafter. The acting manager 654 at any time may be removed by a majority vote of the entire commission.
- 655 (c) The county manager need not be a resident of the county at the time of his or her 656 appointment but shall establish residence therein within six months of such appointment and

continue to reside therein throughout such appointment. The qualifications and compensation of the county manager shall be fixed by the commission.

660 County manager; powers and duties.

- 661 (a) If appointed, the county manager shall be responsible for:
- (1) The management and coordination of the operations and activities of the various
- departments and agencies of the unified government;
- (2) The appointment and removal of all department heads with the exception of the city
- attorney, auditor, and clerk of commissioners;
- (3) The preparation of the proposed annual budget with the assistance of all department
- heads for approval by the commission and the mayor;
- (4) Keeping the commission at all times fully advised as to the financial condition and
- needs of the unified government;
- (5) Conducting studies and investigations and making reports thereon to the commission
- concerning the operation of the departments, offices, and agencies of the unified
- government;
- (6) Requiring any department, board, commission, or agency under the county manager's
- jurisdiction to submit written reports and to provide other information as deemed
- 675 necessary;
- 676 (7) Prescribing, requiring, publishing, and implementing standards of administrative,
- management, and operating practices and procedures to be followed and adhered to by
- all offices, departments, boards, commissions, authorities, and other agencies of the
- unified government which are subject to the county manager's supervision and
- 680 jurisdiction;
- (8) Acting as the purchasing agent of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission as
- provided for in Section 8-105 of this charter;
- 683 (9) Maintaining all required records of the operations and activities of the
- Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission; and
- (10) Developing and implementing an ongoing strategic plan for Milledgeville-Baldwin
- County, Georgia, and providing annual progress updates to the commission.
- 687 (b) Except for the purpose of inquiry and investigation, the mayor and commission shall deal
- with employees of the unified government who are subject to appointment and removal by
- the county manager solely through the county manager and shall not give orders or directions
- 690 to any such employee, either publicly or privately, directly or indirectly.

691 (c) The county manager shall obtain the approval and authorization of the commission for all expenditures in excess of \$25,000.00 and all transfers of investments in excess of \$100,000.00.

SECTION 4-103.

County finance manager; appointment; qualifications; duties; compensation.

- (a) There shall be a professional finance manager who shall be known as the county finance manager of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. The mayor shall recommend a candidate to the commission for the office of county finance manager. No person holding an elective office on the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission shall be eligible for this appointment until two years after leaving elective office. Such recommendation shall become effective when confirmed by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission. The county finance manager shall be prohibited from engaging in any political activity and shall not be eligible to qualify as a candidate for an elective office in the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission for one year after leaving office. The county finance manager at any time may be removed from office by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission.
- 707 (b) Whenever the office of the county finance manager is vacant, the mayor may recommend 708 a person to serve as acting county finance manager until a new county finance manager is 709 appointed, subject to approval by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission 710 and subject to reappointment thereafter. The acting county finance manager at any time may 711 be removed by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission.
 - (c) The county finance manager need not be a resident of the county at the time of his or her appointment but shall establish residence therein within six months of such appointment and continue to reside therein throughout such appointment. The qualifications and compensation of the county finance manager shall be fixed by the commission.

SECTION 4-104.

717 Attorney; appointment; qualifications; duties; compensation.

(a) The mayor shall make nonbinding recommendations to the commission for the attorney of the unified government (referred to at times in this charter as the "attorney"). The recommendations shall become effective when confirmed by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission. The attorney shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor and may be removed from office by the mayor for cause with confirmation of the majority vote of the commission.

724 (b) The attorney shall be an active member of the State Bar of Georgia in good standing and

- shall satisfy any other qualifications established by ordinance.
- 726 (c) The attorney shall be the legal counsel to the unified government and shall perform such
- other duties as may be required by this charter or by ordinance.
- 728 (d) The compensation of the attorney shall be as prescribed by a duly adopted ordinance.

729 **SECTION 4-105.**

Auditor; appointment; qualifications; duties; compensation.

731 (a) There shall be an auditor who shall be known as the county auditor of

732 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. The mayor shall recommend a candidate to the

commission for the office of county auditor. No person holding an elective office on the

Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission shall be eligible for this appointment until two

years after leaving elective office. Such recommendation shall become effective when

confirmed by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission. The county auditor

shall be prohibited from engaging in any political activity and shall not be eligible to qualify

as a candidate for an elective office in the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission for

one year after leaving office. The county auditor at any time may be removed from office

- 740 by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission.
- 741 (b) Whenever the office of the county auditor is vacant, the mayor may recommend a person
- 742 to serve as acting county auditor until a new county auditor is appointed, subject to approval
- by a majority vote of the total membership of the commission and subject to reappointment
- 744 thereafter. The acting county auditor at any time may be removed by a majority vote of the
- 745 total membership of the commission.

746 (c) The qualifications and compensation of the county finance manager shall be fixed by the

747 commission.

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748 **SECTION 4-106.**

749 Sheriff.

- 750 The sheriff of Baldwin County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the
- sheriff of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and shall be the chief law enforcement
- officer for the unified government. The sheriff shall serve for the same term as provided by
- 1753 law, and the compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for
- 755 The sheriff shall have such other or different powers and duties as provided by the
- 756 Constitution and laws of Georgia. The sheriff shall be authorized to shift funds within the

sheriff shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of sheriffs generally.

categories budgeted for his or her office to meet the needs of the office. The sheriff shall meet with the mayor, vice mayor, county manager, and finance committee chairperson of the commission every six months to review the budget of the office of the sheriff.

SECTION 4-107.

Judge of the probate court.

The judge of the Probate Court of Baldwin County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the judge of the Probate Court of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. The judge of the probate court shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for the judge of the probate court shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of probate judges generally and shall be conducted nonpartisan. The judge of the probate court shall perform the same duties and exercise the same powers as conferred on probate judges generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

SECTION 4-108.

771 Clerk of superior court.

The clerk of the Superior Court of Baldwin County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the clerk of the Superior Court of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. The clerk of superior court shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for the clerk of superior court shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of clerks of superior court generally. The clerk of superior court shall perform the same duties and exercise the same powers as conferred on clerks of superior court generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

SECTION 4-109.

781 Tax commissioner.

The tax commissioner of Baldwin County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the tax commissioner of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. The tax commissioner shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and the compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for tax commissioner shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of tax commissioners generally. The tax commissioner shall

perform the same duties and exercise the same powers as conferred on tax commissioners
 generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

789 **SECTION 4-110.**

790 Coroner.

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The coroner of Baldwin County in office on the effective date of this charter shall be the coroner of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. The coroner shall serve for the same term as provided by law, and compensation shall be fixed as provided by law. Subsequent elections for coroner shall be on the same basis as provided by law for the election of coroners generally. The coroner shall perform the same duties and exercise the same powers as conferred on coroners generally by the Constitution and laws of Georgia.

797 **SECTION 4-111.**

798 Clerk.

- 799 The clerk of the commission shall be responsible for:
- 800 (1) Maintaining all required records of the operations and activities of the
- Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission, including the minutes of all meetings of the
- Milledgeville-Baldwin County Commission;
- 803 (2) Certifying ordinances upon adoption for presentation to the mayor for approval or
- veto and certifying as to the authenticity of ordinances which have become law;
- 805 (3) Attesting the mayor's signature on deeds, contracts, agreements, and any other
- obligations on the part of government and the signature of any other officer pursuant to
- Section 7-501 of this charter on any such document;
- 808 (4) Keeping and affixing the seal;
- 809 (5) Providing administrative support to the commission, the mayor, and the county
- manager of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; and
- 811 (6) Carrying out such other duties as may be directed by the commission.

812 ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

813 **SECTION 4-201.**

814 Creation and functions; generally.

815 Except as otherwise provided by this charter or by law, the administrative and service

816 departments of the unified government shall be created and established by ordinance and

shall perform such functions, duties, services, and responsibilities as enumerated in such ordinances and as prescribed by administrative regulations.

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of the mayor and commission.

819 **SECTION 4-202.** 820 Administrative reorganization. 821 The commission may, by ordinance, reorganize, combine, consolidate, or discontinue any department or agency of the unified government subject to the jurisdiction of the commission 822 823 and may, by ordinance, prescribe the functions and duties thereof and may establish, abolish, 824 or alter any nonelective offices and positions of employment as necessary for the proper 825 administration of the unified government. 826 **SECTION 4-203.** 827 Appointment of directors of departments. directors of departments under the supervision and direction of the 828 Milledgeville-Baldwin county manager shall be appointed by the Milledgeville-Baldwin 829 830 county manager. The directors of all such departments shall serve at the pleasure of the 831 Milledgeville-Baldwin county manager. 832 **SECTION 4-204.** 833 Departments under state law. (a) All departments which are created pursuant to state or federal law and which administer 834 835 various state and federal programs and services shall continue their operations without 836 interruption resulting from the adoption of this charter. (b) For employees hired by the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County after the approval 837 of this charter by the electors voting in the referendum pursuant to Section 9-112 of this 838 839 charter, whether to continue to offer a program of health care benefits, the nature and structure of such a program, the benefits provided in such a program, and the premiums to 840

be paid by employees for their participation or the participation of their families or

dependents, if offered, shall be subject to change from time to time in the sound discretion

844 **SECTION 4-301.**

845 Certain commissions, boards, and authorities continued.

846 (a) All existing commissions, boards, and authorities are continued without interruption on the effective date of this charter. As used in the Acts and amendments creating the existing 847 848 commissions, boards, and authorities, the terms "Milledgeville City Council" and "Baldwin 849 County Board of Commissioners" shall mean the Board of Commissioners of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and the terms "mayor of the City of Milledgeville" 850 851 and "Chairperson of the Baldwin County Board of Commissioners" shall mean the mayor 852 of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. (b) The Board of Commissioners of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall have the 853 authority to examine all existing boards, commissions, and authorities of the former City of 854 Milledgeville and Baldwin County for the purpose of determining whether any such boards, 855 commissions, and authorities should be reorganized or reconstituted for the purpose of 856 857 increasing their efficient operation; provided, however, that this authority shall not be construed to authorize the commission to affect any board, commission, and authority created 858 by general law or by local constitutional amendment. 859 860 (c) The Georgia Military College Board of Trustees shall consist of the mayor and six 861 members who shall be elected from the former City of Milledgeville city commission districts as such districts exist on the effective date of this charter within the urban services 862 863 district (commonly referred to as the City of Milledgeville) and shall serve four-year terms 864 as provided in Article 9 of Chapter 3 of Title 20 of the O.C.G.A. The qualifications for these 865 positions shall be the same as those in place upon adoption of this charter.

866 **SECTION 4-401.**

867 Employees.

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Employees who are terminated from their employment shall have the right to appeal such termination to the commission. Such appeal process shall be initiated by filing a written appeal with the mayor within seven days of termination. The mayor shall present the appeal to the commission for review, and the commission shall act upon such appeal within 30 days following the receipt of the written appeal by the mayor. Failure by the commission to act within 30 days shall result in the reinstatement of such employee.

874 ARTICLE V 875 **JUDICIARY** 876 **SECTION 5-101.** 877 Superior court and district attorney; unaffected by charter; redesignation. 878 The Superior Court of Baldwin County, including the office of the district attorney, shall 879 continue its operations without interruption resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the status of such court. The court shall be 880 881 known as the Superior Court of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. **SECTION 5-102.** 882 883 State court and solicitor-general; unaffected by charter; redesignation. The State Court of Baldwin County, including the office of the solicitor-general, shall 884 885 continue its operations without interruption resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the status of such court. The court shall be 886 known as the State Court of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. 887 888 **SECTION 5-103.** Juvenile court; unaffected by charter; redesignation. 889 890 The Juvenile Court of Baldwin County shall continue its operations without interruption 891 resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting The court shall be known as the Juvenile Court of 892 the status of such court. 893 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. **SECTION 5-104.** 894 895 Probate court; unaffected by charter; redesignation. The Probate Court of Baldwin County shall continue its operations without interruption 896 resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting 897 The court shall be known as the Probate Court of 898 the status of such court. Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. 899

900 **SECTION 5-105.** 901 Magistrate court; unaffected by charter; redesignation. 902 The Magistrate Court of Baldwin County shall continue its operations without interruption resulting from the adoption of this charter, and nothing herein shall be construed as affecting 903 904 the status of such court. The court shall be known as the Magistrate Court of 905 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. 906 **SECTION 5-106.** 907 Municipal Court of the City of Milledgeville; abolishment of 908 operations in the unified government: 909 Six months after the effective date of this charter, the Municipal Court of the City of Milledgeville shall stand abolished. Any cases pending before the municipal court on that 910 911 date shall be transferred to the State Court of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. Thereafter, all jurisdiction of the former Municipal Court of the City of Milledgeville shall 912 be transferred to either the Magistrate Court or the State Court of Milledgeville-Baldwin 913 914 County, Georgia. 915 ARTICLE VI 916 **ELECTIONS** 917 **SECTION 6-101.** 918 Applicability of general laws. 919 Except as otherwise provided by this charter, general and special primaries and elections 920 shall be conducted in accordance with provisions of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code." 921 **SECTION 6-102.** 922 923 Regular election, time of holding; voting. (a) Except for the initial elections under this charter, regular elections for the unified 924 government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be held on the Tuesday after 925 the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year. 926 927 (b) Only the electors of each of the election districts defined in Section 6-201 of this charter shall be entitled to vote in the election for the commissioner to be elected from such district. 928

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929	SECTION 6-103.
930	Special elections.
931	All special elections shall be held and conducted in accordance with applicable provisions
932	of Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."
933	SECTION 6-201.
934	Number of districts; boundaries.
935	The territory of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall consist of five single member
936	election districts to be designated respectively as Commissioner Districts 1 through 5 as
937	provided in Section 2-101 of this charter. The mayor and vice mayor of
938	Milledgeville-Baldwin County shall be elected at large.
939	SECTION 6-202.
940	Reapportionment of election districts.
941	(a) The election district boundaries of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be
942	reapportioned following the publication of each official federal decennial census of the
943	population of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia.
944	(b) The reapportionment of election districts shall comply with the following specifications
945	(1) The county shall be divided into five districts to as closely as possible reflect the
946	population of Milledgeville-Baldwin County; and
947	(2) The Milledgeville-Baldwin County Unified Government shall rely upon the
948	Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly of the
949	State of Georgia to draw those districts that reflect the goal of the unified government.
950	(c) Any reapportionment of election districts shall apply to officials of the unified
951	government elected at the next regular election following such reapportionment; provided
952	however, any reapportionment ordinance shall not apply.
953	SECTION 6-301.
954	Special election of first officials.

955 (a) If the referendum for the approval of the unification of the governments of the City of 956 Milledgeville and Baldwin County is held in July, 2015, then the initial election for members 957 of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County governing authority shall be held on the Tuesday 958 immediately following the first Monday in November, 2015. Otherwise, the initial election

for members of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County governing authority shall be held on the date of the 2016 presidential preference primary. The superintendent of elections for Baldwin County shall publish notice of the initial election of members of the unified

- 962 government in the legal organ of Milledgeville-Baldwin County once a week for four weeks
- 963 immediately preceding the election.
- 964 (b) In all other respects, the election shall be held in accordance with the provisions of
- 965 Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code."
- 966 (c) The qualifications for office for such initial election shall be as prescribed by applicable
- 967 provisions of this charter.
- 968 (d) Any elected official of Milledgeville-Baldwin County or of any municipality who is
- otherwise qualified under this charter shall be entitled to qualify and run for an office of the
- 970 unified government.

971 **SECTION 6-302.**

972 Initial terms of office.

- 973 If elected in November, 2015, the initial terms of the mayor, vice mayor, and commissioners
- of the unified government shall be from July 1, 2016, until December 31, 2018, and until
- 975 their respective successors are elected and qualified. If elected in 2016, the initial terms of
- 976 the mayor, vice mayor, and commissioners of the unified government shall be from
- 977 January 1, 2017, until December 31, 2020, and until their respective successors are elected
- 978 and qualified. After the initial elections, all commissioners shall be elected for four-year
- 979 terms and until their respective successors are elected and qualified.

980 ARTICLE VII
981 REVENUE AND FINANCE
982 SECTION 7-101.
983 Taxation and other revenues; levies and collection of

- 983 Taxation and other revenues; levies and collection of taxes, fees, charges, and assessments; appropriations.
- 985 (a) For the purpose of raising revenue for the support and maintenance of the government
- 986 of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, the commission shall have full power and
- authority to levy and collect taxes to the extent hereinafter provided and to appropriate funds
- 988 and expend money:
- 989 (1) For the purposes authorized by this charter;
- 990 (2) For the discharge of the powers, duties, obligations, liabilities, and functions
- specified in this charter;

992 (3) For any and all purposes and any and all subjects of taxation for which the City of

- Milledgeville or Baldwin County may have been authorized and in accordance with those
- authorizations to levy and collect taxes and to appropriate and expend funds under the
- Constitution or any general or special law of Georgia applicable to the City of
- Milledgeville or Baldwin County on the effective date of this charter; and
- 997 (4) For any purpose authorized by the Constitution or any general or special law of
- Georgia applicable to municipal corporations and counties generally now in force or
- hereafter enacted.
- 1000 (b) The commission shall have full power and authority to levy and collect the following
- 1001 taxes, charges, and assessments:
- 1002 (1) Ad valorem taxes on all real and personal property situated within
- Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, which is subject to taxation for state, county,
- and municipal purposes, or for any other public purpose, to the full extent permitted by
- the Constitution and laws of Georgia, whether local (of the City of Milledgeville or
- 1006 Baldwin County) or general;
- 1007 (2) Occupation and business license taxes that are not prohibited by the Constitution and
- general laws of Georgia which may be levied upon any person, firm, partnership,
- company, or corporation which has a location or office within Milledgeville-Baldwin
- 1010 County, Georgia, at which a business, profession, or occupation is conducted;
- 1011 (3) Subject to the restrictions imposed by general law, the commission may also impose
- a regulatory fee, whether designated as a license fee or permit fee or other name, on those
- businesses, professions, or occupations that the unified government of
- Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia regulates;
- 1015 (4) An excise tax on rooms, lodgings, or accommodations as now or hereafter provided
- by law for counties and municipalities;
- 1017 (5) License fees and taxes on insurance companies as authorized by Code Sections
- 1018 33-8-8 through 33-8-8.6 of the O.C.G.A.;
- 1019 (6) A public utility franchise tax, fee, or both on each electric light and power company,
- gas company, telephone and telegraph company, and other public utility making use of
- the roads, streets, alleys, or other public ways of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia;
- 1022 (7) Franchise fees on cable television systems as now or hereafter provided by law;
- provided, however, that, upon the completion of transition activities funded by the
- franchise fees collected from the unincorporated area of Milledgeville-Baldwin County,
- these franchise fees may be used to reasonably reduce taxes in the services districts;
- 1026 (8) Fees, assessments, and charges for the cost of constructing, reconstructing, widening,
- or improving any public way, street, sidewalk, curbing, gutters, storm sewers, drainage

1028 structures, or other utility mains and appurtenances from the abutting property owners under any terms and conditions as provided by ordinance; 1029

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- (9) Fees, assessments, charges, and tolls for sanitary and health services or any other services rendered within and without the limits of the unified government under such terms and conditions as provided by ordinance;
- 1033 (10) All other such taxes, charges, or assessments as the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County were authorized and empowered to make and collect upon the effective 1034 date of this charter, which powers may be exercised throughout the area of the unified 1035 1036 government, or appropriate portions thereof, including any tax now or hereafter authorized by state law, and the specific mention of any right, power, or authority in this 1037 charter shall not be construed as limiting in any way the general powers of the 1038 1039 commission to govern its local affairs. When authorized by this charter or a statute or the 1040 Constitution of the State of Georgia, the commission shall have full power and authority 1041 to assess, levy, charge, and collect taxes, rentals, interest, fees, penalties, fines, and costs; 1042 to receive income on investments; to accept funds, services, or property from other political subdivisions and public agencies, either local, state, or national, and from private 1043 1044 persons, firms, or corporations; and to contract with them for any public purpose;
- 1045 (11) An excise tax upon the sale of distilled spirits or alcoholic beverages for beverage 1046 purposes by the drink as now or hereafter provided by law for counties and 1047 municipalities;
- 1048 (12) An excise tax upon the sale, transfer, or dispensing of malt beverages and alcoholic 1049 beverages within Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, by wholesale or retail dealers 1050 as now or hereafter provided by law for counties and municipalities. In addition, the 1051 Commission shall have the authority to impose, assess, levy, and collect an excise tax 1052 upon the sale, transfer, or dispensing of wine by wholesale or retail dealers within Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, as now or hereafter provided by law for counties 1053 1054 and municipalities;
- (13) One mill of taxes shall be collected from the urban services district for Georgia 1055 Military College as is presently provided by law; and 1056
- 1057 (14) Such other taxes and charges as provided by law.
- (c) Not later than the beginning of its eighth year of operation, the commission shall create 1058 and fully fund and maintain an emergency fund in an amount equal to one mill of taxes for 1059 1060 the immediately preceding fiscal year. Funds in such account may only be used in the event of a fiscal emergency, as determined to exist by an affirmative vote of five or more members 1061 of the commission. In such event, the funds may be used to deal with such fiscal emergency, 1062
- 1063 but such fund shall be replenished as soon as practicable and reasonable.

(d) The commission shall create and maintain an unassigned fund balance equal to one-sixth of the preceding audited fiscal year's total general fund operating expenses. This minimum balance shall be established not later than the beginning of the eighth year of operation of the unified government. The adopted budget for each fiscal year shall not appropriate unassigned general funds which would cause this minimum balance to fall below an amount equal to one-sixth of the preceding audited fiscal year's total general fund operating expenses. In the event of a fiscal emergency, as determined by an affirmative vote of five or more members of the commission, the budget may be amended to temporarily utilize such unassigned general fund balance.

1073 **SECTION 7-102.**

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1074 Collection of delinquent taxes and fees.

The collection of delinquent taxes and fees shall be as provided by state law for the collection of delinquent property taxes by counties.

1077 **SECTION 7-103.**

Homestead exemptions.

The homestead exemptions provided under the Constitution and laws of Georgia presently in force or as hereafter amended shall be applicable to all such property subject to ad valorem taxes within Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia.

1082 **SECTION 7-104.**

Tax and services districts; taxation therein.

- 1084 (a) The general services district as defined and authorized in paragraph (1) of subsection (a)
 1085 of Section 7-301 of this charter shall constitute a general services tax district wherein the
 1086 commission shall levy and collect taxes and shall appropriate money to perform and
 1087 discharge those powers, functions, and services provided therein by the unified government
 1088 of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia.
- 1089 (b) The urban services district as authorized in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Section 7-301 of this charter, together with any enlargement or modification thereof pursuant to the provisions of this charter, shall constitute an urban tax district, as the case may be, wherein the commission may levy and collect additional taxes and may appropriate additional money therefrom to perform and discharge those additional powers, functions, and additional

services provided therein by the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County,

1095 Georgia.

(c) The assessment of real and personal property for ad valorem tax purposes shall be upon a uniform basis throughout the entire area of the unified government; provided, however, that the rate and manner of additional taxation of services districts may vary in any services tax district from that in another or other services tax districts in such a way as to reflect reasonably the kind, character, type, degree, and level of services afforded to such services tax district or districts.

BORROWING AND INDEBTEDNESS

SECTION 7-201.

Issuance of general obligation bonds.

(a) The commission shall be authorized to issue and sell general obligation bonds, after approval of the qualified voters, under the provisions of the Constitution and general laws of Georgia for any public purpose for the benefit of the unified government or any tax area or services district thereof; provided, however, that for the purpose of issuing and selling such general obligation bonds, the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be deemed a county, and the provisions of the Constitution and laws of Georgia governing the limitations, terms, and procedures for the issuance and sale of bonds by counties shall apply to the unified government unless otherwise provided by this charter. (b) All general obligation bonds shall be issued in the name of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and shall be an obligation thereof, and the full faith and credit of the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be pledged for all general obligation bonds issued thereunder which are payable from ad valorem taxes, and, for such purpose, the commission shall have the authority to levy and collect ad valorem taxes without limit as to rate or amount on all taxable property within the territorial limits of the unified government.

SECTION 7-202.

Debt limitation; general obligation bonds.

The total general obligation bond indebtedness of the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, payable from ad valorem taxes, including all outstanding general obligation bonds of the former City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County on the effective date of this charter, shall not exceed 10 percent of the assessed value of all taxable property within the territorial limits of the unified government.

1127 **SECTION 7-203.**

Revenue bonds.

The commission shall be empowered and authorized to issue revenue bonds for the purposes and in the manner as now or hereafter provided by Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., the "Revenue Bond Law."

1132 **SECTION 7-204.**

1133 Use of bond proceeds.

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All revenue derived by Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, from the issuance and sale of bonds shall be used exclusively for the purposes for which such bonds were issued, and all ad valorem taxes collected for the purpose of servicing or retiring such bonds shall be used exclusively for the payment of principal and interest thereof.

1138 **SECTION 7-205.**

Allocation of indebtedness.

(a) All general indebtedness of Baldwin County, whether represented by general obligation bonds or otherwise, which may be outstanding upon the effective date of this charter, shall be allocated to the general services area as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Section 7-301 of this charter, and is hereby recognized as the obligation of the general services district of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. All general indebtedness of the City of Milledgeville, whether represented by general obligation bonds or otherwise which may be outstanding upon the effective date of this charter, shall be allocated to the urban services area as defined in paragraph (2) of subsection (a) of Section 7-301 of this charter. The commission is hereby authorized to levy taxes and otherwise provide for the retirement thereof, subject to the terms of this charter. Any funds in the control of the previously existing City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County, now consolidated into Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, by this charter, which had been allocated to the retirement of any bonded indebtedness of such municipality and county shall be so applied by the commission. (b) All general obligation bonds issued prior to the effective date of this charter by Baldwin County and all bonds authorized but unissued by Baldwin County on the effective date of this charter and thereafter issued by Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be allocated to the general services district, and the principal of and interest on such bonds shall be paid from ad valorem taxes or other revenues collected in the general services district.

All general obligation bonds issued prior to the effective date of this charter by the City of 1159 Milledgeville and all bonds authorized but unissued by the City of Milledgeville on the 1160 1161 effective date of this charter and thereafter issued by Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be allocated to the urban services district, and the principal and interest on 1162 1163 such bonds shall be paid from ad valorem taxes or other revenues collected in the urban 1164 services district. (c) Any revenue bonds issued prior to the effective date of this charter by the City of 1165 Milledgeville or Baldwin County under Article 3 of Chapter 82 of Title 36 of the O.C.G.A., 1166 1167 the "Revenue Bond Law," and any such revenue bonds authorized but unissued by the said 1168 city or county on the effective date of this charter and thereafter issued by Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be payable as to principal and interest from 1169 1170 the revenues or sources and in the manner provided in the proceedings which authorized the 1171 issuance of such revenue bonds. (d) Neither the allocation of bonds to the general services district nor any of the other 1172 1173 provisions of this charter shall impair or diminish any of the rights, revenues, or security and source for payment of any of such bonds or revenue bonds issued by the City of 1174 Milledgeville or by Baldwin County prior to the effective date of this charter, or authorized 1175 1176 but unissued by the City of Milledgeville or by Baldwin County on the effective date of this 1177 charter and thereafter issued by Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; and such holders 1178 of such bonds or revenue bonds shall have and be entitled to enforce any and all rights, 1179 remedies, and security and sources for payment granted such holders by the proceedings 1180 which authorized the issuance of such bonds or revenue bonds as fully and to the same extent 1181 as if this charter had not been adopted.

1182 **SECTION 7-301.**

Financing of services; general and urban services districts.

- 1184 (a) In Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, there shall be:
- (1) A general services district which shall consist of the total area of Baldwin County as fixed and established upon the effective date of this charter or as hereafter modified according to law;
- 1188 (2) An urban services district which shall consist of the area embraced within the corporate limits of the City of Milledgeville as the same exists upon the day immediately preceding the effective date of this charter or as such area may be hereafter expanded as herein provided; and
- 1192 (3) Such special services districts as the commission may hereafter establish.

1193 (b) All other tax districts existing in the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County 1194 immediately prior to the effective date of this charter shall be continued in effect by this 1195 charter.

- (c) Such services districts shall be tax districts wherein taxes and other assessments shall be assessed, levied, and collected by the unified government in accordance with the kind, character, type, and degree of services actually provided therein and may vary in any one services district from that of another or other areas in accordance with the provisions of this charter. The powers, authority, duties, liabilities, services, and functions of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, may vary in any services district from that in another or other services district.
- (d) The unified government is hereby empowered to exercise and provide within the general services district and within any urban services district established by this charter or by ordinance of the commission those powers, functions, and services which have theretofore been exercised and provided by Baldwin County or the City of Milledgeville, or both; all powers, functions, and services authorized by this charter, and any amendments thereto; and all powers, functions, and services which counties and municipal corporations, or both, are now or hereafter authorized to exercise under the Constitution and laws of Georgia.
- 1210 (e) The unified government shall perform or procure the performance within the general services district of those governmental duties, functions, and services which are generally available and accessible to all residents throughout the total territory of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia.
- 1214 (f) The unified government shall perform within its urban services districts those additional, 1215 more comprehensive and intensive, and higher levels of governmental duties, functions, and 1216 services which benefit primarily the residents of such urban services districts.

SECTION 7-302.

1218 Creation of services districts by ordinance.

Except as otherwise provided by this charter, services districts of the unified government shall be created, expanded, merged, unified, or reduced only by ordinance duly adopted by the commission under such general rules, procedures, regulations, requirements, and specifications as are established by the commission and this charter. Such rules and regulations shall set forth the manner and method for the creation of new services districts and the expansion, unification, reduction, or merger of existing services districts; set forth requirements for defining functions and policies for rendering services, for changing levels of services within existing services districts, and for transferring territory from one services district to another; and set forth requirements for defining boundaries of services districts.

1228 **SECTION 7-303.** 1229 Requirements for defining boundaries. 1230 Whenever in this charter it is required that the boundaries of a services district be set out, it 1231 shall suffice if the boundaries are described in such a way as to convey an intelligent 1232 understanding of the location of the land. In the discretion of the commission, the boundaries 1233 may be described: 1234 (1) By reference to a map; 1235 (2) By metes and bounds; 1236 (3) By general description referring to roads or natural boundaries or to the boundaries 1237 of particular tracts or parcels of land; or 1238 (4) By any combination of the above methods. 1239 **SECTION 7-304.** 1240 Notice of hearing prior to adoption of ordinance. 1241 Before adopting any ordinance authorized or described in Sections 7-301 through 7-303 of 1242 this charter, the commission shall give notice of its intention to consider the ordinance and 1243 shall provide an opportunity for interested persons to be heard as is provided for in 1244 subsection (d) of Section 1-105 of this charter. 1245 **SECTION 7-401.** 1246 Financial administration; fiscal year. 1247 If the initial members of the governing authority are elected in November, 2015, the initial 1248 fiscal year of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall begin on July 1, 2016, and shall 1249 end on June 30, 2017. If the initial members of the governing authority are elected in 2016, the initial fiscal year of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall begin on 1250 January 1, 2017, and shall end on June 30, 2017. Subsequent fiscal years shall begin on 1251 1252 July 1 and end on the following June 30. The fiscal year shall constitute the budget year and the year for financial accounting and reporting of each and every office, department, 1253 1254 institution, agency, and activity of the unified government, unless otherwise provided by

state or federal law. The commission may adopt a different fiscal year by ordinance, which

shall not be effective until at least six months after the date of adoption thereof.

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SECTION 7-402.
Preparation of budgets.
The preparation of an annual budget shall be as prescribed by ordinance and provisions of
this charter. In addition, the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia,
may adopt budgets as are permitted by general law, including, but not limited to, project
budgets for major capital projects and fund budgets.
SECTION 7-403.
Scope of budgets.
(a) The annual budget shall apply to the operating and capital improvement expenses of the
unified government.
(b) The annual operating budget shall contain funds of the government of
Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, to which they are applicable:
(1) A reasonable estimate of cash revenues to be received during the ensuing year,
classified according to source;
(2) Proposed expenditures detailed by each department, commission, board, office,
agency, and activity in accordance with an established classification of accounts,
including those capital outlays which are to be financed from the revenues of the ensuing
year and including all debt service requirements in full for such fiscal year; and
(3) Such other information as may be considered necessary or desirable by the mayor or
the commission.
(c) In no event shall the total proposed expenditures from any fund exceed the total
anticipated revenues plus the estimated unappropriated surplus or fund balance and
applicable reserves less any estimated deficit at the end of the current fiscal year.
SECTION 7-404.
Submission of budgets to the commissioners.
(a) In advance of initiating preparations of the annual budget, the mayor, with participation
of the commission, shall develop a statement of the general fiscal policies of
Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; the important features of the budget; explanations
of major changes recommended for the next fiscal year; a general summary of the budget;
and such other comments and information as may be deemed pertinent.
(b) On or before a date fixed by the commission but not later than 60 days prior to the
beginning of each fiscal year, the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager

in consultation with the department heads shall prepare an operating budget to submit to the mayor.

(c) The mayor shall submit to the commission a proposed operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year. The budget shall be accompanied by a message from the mayor containing a statement of the general fiscal policies of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; the important features of the budget; explanations of major changes recommended for the next fiscal year; a general summary of the budget; and such other comments and information as may be deemed pertinent. A summary of the budget and the mayor's message shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation designated as the legal organ of the unified government. The operating budget, the budget message, and all supporting schedules shall be filed in the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager's office and shall be open to public inspection.

1301 **SECTION 7-405.**

Adoption of budgets.

- 1303 (a) The commission shall approve, reject, or amend the proposed balanced operating budget.
- 1304 The budget as finally adopted shall provide for all expenditures required by law or by other
- provisions of this charter and for all debt service requirements for the ensuing fiscal year.
- 1306 The total appropriations from any fund shall not exceed the estimated fund balance, reserves,
- and revenues constituting the resources available of such fund.
- 1308 (b) The commission shall adopt the final annual operating budget for the ensuing fiscal year
- 1309 not later than the 30th day of June of each year, and such budget shall be effective for the
- 1310 fiscal year beginning on the first day of July. In the event the commission fails to adopt the
- budget by such date, the amounts appropriated for current operation for the current fiscal
- 1312 year shall be deemed adopted for the ensuing fiscal year, with appropriate items prorated
- accordingly, until such time as the commission shall adopt a budget for the ensuing fiscal
- 1314 year. Adoption of the annual operating budget shall take the form of an appropriation
- ordinance setting out estimated revenues in detail by source and making appropriations
- accordingly to fund organizational units, purposes, or activities as set forth in the budget
- 1317 document.

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- 1318 (c) The amount set out in the adopted operating budget for each organizational unit, purpose,
- or activity shall constitute the annual appropriation for such item, and no expenditure shall
- be made or encumbrance created in excess of the otherwise unencumbered balance of the
- appropriation, or allotment thereof, to which it is chargeable.
- 1322 (d) The commission shall adopt by ordinance the capital improvements program and capital
- budget for the ensuing fiscal year not later than the 30th day of June of each year. The

capital budget ordinance shall show in detail the capital expenditures intended to be made or incurred in the ensuing fiscal year that are to be financed from funds subject to control or appropriation by the commission and shall be in full conformity with that part of the capital program applicable to the year which it covers. Amounts specified as intended to be spent out of new appropriations shall, upon enactment of the capital budget ordinance, constitute appropriations of such amounts.

1330 **SECTION 7-406.**

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1331 Property tax levies.

Following the adoption of the operating and capital improvements budgets for each fiscal year, the commission shall levy by ordinance a general services district tax on all real and personal property within the general services tax district as provided by this charter. The tax rate set by such ordinance shall be such that a reasonable estimate of cash revenues from such levy shall be at least sufficient, together with other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable reserves, to equal the total amount appropriated for each of the several funds set forth in the annual operating budget for defraying the expenses of the general services district for services to be rendered throughout the entire area of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. Such services shall include those functions set forth in subsections (c) and (d) of Section 7-301 of this charter, and such other purposes, functions, and services as may be authorized by the laws of Georgia, by this charter, or by ordinance of the commission. The commission shall levy by ordinance a special services district tax on all real and personal property within any special services tax district as authorized by this charter. The tax rates set by such ordinance for each district shall be such that a reasonable estimate of cash revenues from such levy shall be at least sufficient, together with other anticipated revenues, fund balances, and applicable reserves, to equal the total amount appropriated for each of the several funds set forth in the annual operating budget for defraying the expenses of a higher level of services to be rendered in a special services district.

1350 **SECTION 7-407.**

Limitation of funds.

Upon certification by the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager that the revenues or other resources actually realized with respect to any fund will be less than was anticipated and will be insufficient to meet the amounts appropriated from such fund, it shall be the duty of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager upon the

instruction of the mayor of the unified government to limit such appropriations or to transfer other available funds between departments as may be necessary to prevent deficit operation.

1358 **SECTION 7-408.**

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Transfer of funds.

Upon recommendation of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager and approval of a majority vote of the commission, the commission may make interfund or interdepartmental transfers in the current operating budget or capital improvements budget at any regular or special meeting called for such purpose, provided funds are also available.

1364 **SECTION 7-409.**

Lapse of appropriations.

All unencumbered balances of appropriations in the current operating budget at the end of the fiscal year shall lapse into the unappropriated surplus or reserves of the fund or funds from which such appropriations were made.

1369 **SECTION 7-410.**

1370 Continuing audit.

The auditor shall conduct a continuing internal audit of the fiscal affairs and operations of every department, office, and agency of the unified government.

1373 **SECTION 7-411.**

Post-audit.

(a) The commission shall provide annually for an independent audit of the accounts and other evidences of financial transactions of the government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and of every office, department, board, commission, authority, or other agency. The audit shall be made by a certified public accountant who shall have no personal interest, direct or indirect, in the fiscal affairs of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, or of any of its departments, boards, offices, commissions, authorities, or agencies. The commission shall by competitive bids, taking into consideration the most responsive and reasonable bid, designate such accountant or firm annually or for a period not exceeding three years.

(b) The audit may be conducted on a quarterly or continuing basis, and the final report of the annual audit shall be completed as soon as practicable after the close of the fiscal year, and in no event later than six months after the close of the fiscal year. The audit report shall be filed with the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager and made available to the public.

1389 (c) The commission may at any time order an examination or special audit of any office, 1390 department, board, commission, or other agency of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia.

PROCUREMENT AND DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY

1392 **SECTION 7-501.**

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Contracting procedures.

The commission shall prescribe by ordinance rules and regulations which shall be followed in the making of contracts in order to bind the government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. Except where otherwise provided by law or by ordinance, all contracts of the government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be signed by the mayor and authenticated by the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager.

1399 **SECTION 7-502.**

Sale and disposition of property.

- 1401 (a) The commission is authorized to sell any real or personal property owned or held by
 1402 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and not needed for governmental or other public
 1403 purposes in such manner as is required in state law for counties, as provided for in Code
 1404 Sections 36-9-2 and 36-9-3 of the O.C.G.A.
- 1405 (b) Whenever in opening, extending, or widening any street, avenue, alley, or public place 1406 of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, a small parcel or tract of land is cut off or 1407 separated by such work from a larger tract of land owned by Milledgeville-Baldwin County, 1408 Georgia, the commission may authorize the execution and deliverance in the name of the 1409 government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, of a deed conveying said cut-off or separated parcel or tract of land to an abutting or adjoining property owner or owners in 1410 1411 exchange for rights of way in said street, avenue, alley, or public place, or in settlement of 1412 any alleged damages sustained by said abutting or adjoining property owner. All deeds and conveyances so executed and delivered shall convey all title and interest the unified 1413 1414 government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, has in such property.

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1415	ARTICLE VIII
1416	GENERAL PROVISIONS
1417	SECTION 8-101.
1418	Application of laws; laws in force.
1419	(a) The general laws of the State of Georgia of a criminal nature shall be applicable to and
1420	within the limits of the unified government. General laws of local application through
1421	classification by population, not in conflict with this charter, which, on the effective date of
1422	this charter, apply to the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be
1423	applicable to the unified government, and which apply to Milledgeville-Baldwin County,
1424	Georgia, as either a city or a county at the time of their enactment or thereafter shall be
1425	effective; provided, however, that those laws which did not apply to the City of Milledgeville
1426	or Baldwin County or the unified government at the time of their enactment shall not become
1427	applicable to the unified government except through the adoption of a resolution to that effect
1428	by the commission.
1429	(b) Local Acts of the State of Georgia which apply specifically to either Baldwin County or
1430	the City of Milledgeville, or both, shall be applicable to the unified government.
1431	(c) In construing the applicability of provisions of the Constitution and the general laws of
1432	Georgia which apply in general terms to either counties or municipalities, or both, and local
1433	Acts of the General Assembly that apply specifically to Baldwin County or the City of
1434	Milledgeville, or both, the following terms as used in such laws shall be construed to include
1435	the unified government as follows:
1436	(1) "City," "town," "municipal corporation," or "municipality" shall be construed to
1437	include Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia;
1438	(2) "Council," "mayor," "mayor and council," "aldermen," and "commission of
1439	aldermen" shall be construed to include the Board of Commissioners of
1440	Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia;
1441	(3) "County" shall be construed to include Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia;
1442	(4) "Mayor" shall be construed to include the mayor of Milledgeville-Baldwin County,
1443	Georgia; and
1444	(5) Any other terms and provisions as used in such Acts to refer specifically to Baldwin
1445	County or the City of Milledgeville, or both, and the officers, employees, departments,
1446	and agencies thereof shall be construed to mean Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia,

and its officers, employees, departments, and agencies.

1448	SECTION 8-102.
1449	Limitation on claims and service.
1450	(a) All contractual claims against the unified government shall be presented within
1451	12 months after they accrue or become payable or the same as claimed, unless held by
1452	minors or other persons laboring under disabilities, who are allowed 12 months after the
1453	removal of such disability.
1454	(b) Service on the unified government of any suit, process, or order of court shall be served
1455	upon the mayor.
1456	SECTION 8-103.
1457	Competitive bidding.
1458	(a) All departments and agencies of the unified government shall utilize competitive bidding
1459	procedures, as specified in an ordinance of the commission, for all purchases in excess of an
1460	amount provided for in an ordinance of the commission, unless such purchase shall be
1461	otherwise approved by four of the seven commissioners.
1462	(b) A vendor located in Milledgeville-Baldwin County whose bid is within 20 percent of the
1463	lowest bidder on a purchase shall be given the opportunity to rebid and match the lowest
1464	bidder for such purchase if such bid meets all other stated criteria for such bid.
1465	SECTION 8-104.
1466	Execution of assessments.
1467	Whenever any tax or special assessment is authorized or empowered to be levied or imposed
1468	by this charter which is required to be collected by the unified government and such is not
1469	paid within the time period specified by the commission and no specific provision is
1470	elsewhere provided in this charter for its collection, then the county manager shall issue
1471	execution in the name of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, against such person, firm,
1472	or entity liable therefore or property subject thereto for such sums as may be due with interest
1473	at the legal rate from the due date, and penalties and costs. The unified government shall

have the right to enforce payment of such execution by levy and sale as in the case of county

taxes, and the purchaser at such sale shall acquire the same title and rights as a purchaser at

a sale for county taxes. Executions issued by the county manager of Milledgeville-Baldwin

County, Georgia, and the levy and sale thereunder shall be governed by general law.

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SECTION 8-105.

1479 Authority to deal with federal and state agencies.

The unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall have the power and authority to participate in, cooperate in, and take all necessary action with respect to any and all projects, programs, and undertakings of any nature authorized by any statute, rule, or regulation of the United States, the State of Georgia, or any federal or state agency or instrumentality, including, but not limited to, community development, highways, aviation, aviation terminals, airports, airport facilities, municipal area or regional development, sewer and sewage disposal, public housing, housing for the aged, and transportation or mass transit or any phase thereof; to borrow money and issue promissory notes, general obligation bonds, or revenue bonds or a combination thereof for any such purposes in accordance with provisions of this charter; and to execute mortgages or deeds of trust in favor of any federal agency, secured by property of which the unified government is the legal or beneficial or equitable owner, or in favor of any private agency where the loan is guaranteed by a federal agency.

SECTION 8-106.

Federal and state aid.

The unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall be deemed a county but shall also be deemed an incorporated city or municipality for the purpose of determining its right to receive and for the purpose of receiving state aid or grant-in-aid from the State of Georgia or from the United States or from any agency or instrumentality thereof or from any other source, public or private. The unified government shall be entitled to receive as state aid or as grant-in-aid from the State of Georgia or from the United States or from any agency or instrumentality thereof or from any other source, public or private, all funds to which a county is, or may hereafter be, entitled, and also all funds to which an incorporated city or municipality is or may be hereafter entitled, and to receive the same without diminution or loss by reason of unification.

SECTION 8-107.

Budgets of county officers and agencies.

All elected officers and all agencies not under the direct control and jurisdiction of the county manager, such as the Board of Health and the Board of Family and Children Services, which receive appropriations from the commission, shall, on the same date as is applicable to

budgets submitted by department heads, submit to the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager annual operating and capital budget requests for the ensuing fiscal year. Such budget requests, after any revisions therein by the Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager and the Milledgeville-Baldwin County mayor, shall be incorporated into the overall unified government budget for submission by the Milledgeville-Baldwin County mayor to the commission, which shall grant a hearing to any such officer or agency on such proposed budgets.

1517 **SECTION 8-108.**

Existing pension rights protected.

- 1519 (a) Persons who, at the time this charter takes effect, are employed by any office,
- department, board, commission, or agency of the former City of Milledgeville shall retain
- 1521 all pension rights which have accrued to them under any existing pension system.
- 1522 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall continue in force and effect any existing
- 1523 pension system for city employees covered thereby who are employed by the unified
- 1524 government, and the services of such employees shall not be deemed to have been
- interrupted by the adoption of this charter.
- 1526 (b) Persons who, at the time this charter takes effect, are employed by any office,
- department, board, commission, or agency of the former Baldwin County shall retain all
- 1528 rights which have accrued to them under any existing pension system.
- 1529 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall continue in force and effect any existing
- pension system for county employees covered thereby who are employed by the unified
- 1531 government, and the services of such employees shall not be deemed to have been
- interrupted by the adoption of this charter.
- 1533 (c) No employee seniority, salary, or benefit shall be diminished or eliminated as a result of
- unification.

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1535 **SECTION 8-109.**

1536 Establishment of new pension systems; merging of existing systems.

The commission is hereby authorized and empowered to establish and maintain a new pension system or pension systems or retirement plan or plans affecting new employees and such other employees as desire to be covered thereby and to revise, combine, and consolidate any pension system in effect on the effective date of this charter; provided, however, that in no event shall any revision, combination, or unification of any existing pension system in effect when this charter is adopted result in the curtailment or diminishment of any right

accrued under any existing pension system to any person heretofore employed by the City

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1544 of Milledgeville, Baldwin County, or of any agency of such former governments. **SECTION 8-110.** 1545 1546 Amending charter. This charter may be modified, rescinded, changed, or amended by only the following 1547 methods: 1548 (1) An Act of the General Assembly of Georgia; or 1549 (2) An ordinance adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Milledgeville-Baldwin 1550 County, Georgia, as provided for in Article IX, Section II, Paragraph I of the Constitution 1551 1552 of the State of Georgia. 1553 **SECTION 8-111.** 1554 Fidelity bonds. 1555 All officers of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, both elected and appointed, shall 1556 execute such official bonds in such amounts and upon such terms and conditions as the law 1557 or the commission may require. 1558 **SECTION 8-112.** 1559 Examples of powers. 1560 The powers of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall include, but shall not be limited 1561 to, the following powers: (1) Ad valorem taxation: to levy, assess, and collect ad valorem taxes on all taxable 1562 1563 property; (2) Other taxes: to levy, assess, and collect other taxes allowed by general law and in 1564 1565 accordance therewith; 1566 (3) Business regulation and taxation: to levy, assess, and collect occupation taxes and to license and regulate occupations and businesses; 1567 (4) Appropriations: to make appropriations and expend funds for support of the unified 1568 1569 government and any other lawful purpose; 1570 (5) Debts: to borrow money and issue bonds as authorized by general law; (6) Property: to own property and interests in property; 1571 1572 (7) Gifts: to accept gifts and grants for any purpose related to the powers and duties of

the unified government on such terms as the donor may impose;

1574 (8) Condemnation: to condemn property inside the unified government for present or

- 1575 future use;
- 1576 (9) Public utilities: to acquire, lease, operate, and dispose of public utilities;
- 1577 (10) Franchises: to grant franchises or make contracts for public utilities and to prescribe
- the conditions of such franchises and contracts;
- 1579 (11) Roadways: to open, maintain, improve, and close streets and roads and to grant
- franchises and rights of way thereon;
- 1581 (12) Public facilities: to acquire, operate, and dispose of public buildings, public projects,
- parks, cemeteries, recreational facilities, and other public improvements inside the unified
- 1583 government;
- 1584 (13) Building regulation: to regulate the building trades and the construction of buildings
- and to adopt and enforce building, housing, plumbing, electrical, gas, heating, and air
- 1586 conditioning codes;
- 1587 (14) Planning and zoning: to adopt land, use plans, and exercise the power of zoning,
- subdivision regulation, and the like;
- 1589 (15) Police power: to exercise the police power for the public safety and well-being of
- the citizens of the unified government;
- 1591 (16) Roadside regulation: to prohibit or regulate signs, billboards, and other items upon
- or adjacent to streets and roads;
- 1593 (17) Health: to prescribe and enforce health and sanitation standards;
- 1594 (18) Pollution: to regulate emissions which pollute the air and water;
- 1595 (19) Fire safety: to fix fire limits and to prescribe and enforce fire safety regulations;
- 1596 (20) Public hazards: to provide for the destruction or removal of public hazards;
- 1597 (21) Waste disposal: to provide for and regulate the collection, disposal, and recycling
- of garbage and wastes;
- 1599 (22) Water and sewer fees: to fix and collect water and sewer fees;
- 1600 (23) Garbage fees: to fix and collect garbage fees;
- 1601 (24) Nuisances: to define and provide for the abatement of nuisances;
- 1602 (25) Property protection: to preserve and protect the property of the unified government;
- 1603 (26) Prisoners: to provide for public work by prisoners and for their confinement;
- 1604 (27) Animal control: to regulate or prohibit the keeping of animals;
- 1605 (28) Motor vehicles: to regulate the operation and parking of motor vehicles;
- 1606 (29) Taxicabs: to regulate vehicles operated for hire in the unified government;
- 1607 (30) Pensions: to provide and maintain a system of pensions and retirement for
- employees and officers of the unified government;
- 1609 (31) Special assessments: to levy, assess, and collect special assessments to cover the
- 1610 cost of public improvements;

1611	(32) Contracts: to enter into lawful contracts and agreements;
1612	(33) Agencies: to create, alter, or abolish departments, boards, offices, commissions,
1613	authorities, and agencies of the unified government and to confer appropriate authority
1614	upon them;
1615	(34) Penalties: to provide penalties for violations of ordinances of the unified
1616	government;
1617	(35) Law enforcement and fire protection: to exercise the power of arrest through
1618	appointed deputies and to operate a fire department;
1619	(36) Emergencies: to provide for the determination, proclamation, and combating of
1620	emergencies;
1621	(37) Urban redevelopment: to organize and operate an urban redevelopment program;
1622	(38) Public transportation: to organize and operate public transportation programs; and
1623	(39) General health, safety, and welfare: to define, regulate, and prohibit any act,
1624	practice, conduct, or use of property which is detrimental to the health, sanitation,
1625	cleanliness, welfare, and safety of the inhabitants of the unified government.
1626	SECTION 8-113.
1627	Provision of services.
1628	When determining services to be provided, the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin
1629	County, Georgia, shall always attempt:
1630	(1) To efficiently allocate resources to increase the quality of life for all citizens of
1631	Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia;
1632	(2) To provide the highest quality services to all citizens of Milledgeville-Baldwin
1633	County, Georgia;
1634	(3) To ensure efficient utilization of community resources;
1635	(4) To promote equity for all citizens in the delivery of governmental services throughout
1636	Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; and
1637	(5) To recognize and consider the advantages of the provision of services through
1638	contractual arrangements with other governments and private enterprises.
1639	SECTION 8-114.
1640	Historic items.
1641	It shall be the responsibility of the unified government to collect, preserve, and display
1642	documents and other items of historical significance to the City of Milledgeville, Baldwin
1643	County, and Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia.
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1644 **SECTION 8-115.** 1645 Section captions. 1646 The captions to the several sections of this charter are informative only and are not to be 1647 construed as a part thereof. 1648 **SECTION 8-116.** 1649 Effect of repeals. 1650 No law heretofore repealed, expressly or by implication, shall be revived by the repeal herein of the repealing Act or by any provision of this charter that disclaims an intention to repeal 1651 1652 or affect enumerated laws. **SECTION 8-117.** 1653 1654 Severability clause. 1655 If any provision of this charter or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is 1656 held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this charter 1657 which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application; and to this end, the provisions of this charter are declared to be severable. 1658 1659 ARTICLE IX TRANSITION PROVISION 1660 1661 **SECTION 9-101.** 1662 Provision of services during transition. 1663 In order to unify the two governments and to assure the common and continued administration of services currently provided by both the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin 1664 1665 County, the following procedures shall apply: 1666 (1) On the effective date of the new unified government, all services currently provided by the county shall be provided through the general services district to all residents of the 1667 county, and all services provided by the city shall be provided through the urban services 1668 1669 district to the current residents of the City of Milledgeville. Assuming the continued availability of state and federal funds, these services arrangements shall apply until 1670 1671 modified as provided under the provisions cited below; 1672 (2) Within two years of the effective date of this charter, the unified government shall 1673 adopt a services delivery plan that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

(A) An administrative mechanism with appropriate status and adequate budget to develop and implement a comprehensive program of human and economic development which shall be responsible for identifying problems and needs that exist in the community and for identifying and securing resources needed to effectively address these problems and needs; and

- (B) An administrative mechanism with appropriate status and adequate budget to develop and implement adequate parks and recreation programs that will be available to all citizens of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia; and
- (3) The unified government shall work with due speed to equalize the charges for all services throughout the county.

1684 **SECTION 9-102.**

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1685 Protection and compensation of existing employees.

- (a) All full-time employees of the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County, Georgia, and 1686 all full-time employees of any department, office, or agency thereof shall, upon the 1687 1688 termination of said city and county governments and the inception of the unified government, 1689 shall become employees of the unified government or of a department, office, or agency 1690 thereof and shall be assigned to duties as similar in nature as may be practicable within said 1691 unified government.
- 1692 (b) No permanent full-time employee of the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County shall lose employment or suffer any diminution of compensation resulting from the adoption of this charter. The definition of compensation includes, but is not limited to, salary, retirement benefits, and annual and sick leave. This provision shall not apply to any position which 1696 requires appointment by the mayor and confirmation by a majority of the commission under 1697 paragraph (2) of Section 3-105 of this charter.
- (c) Within 12 months of the effective date of this charter, the unified government shall have 1698 begun implementation of a plan that ensures that all employees performing the same functions and having the same responsibilities receive uniform compensation by the end of the second year of operation of the unified government. This requirement that there be a uniform level of compensation throughout Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, by the 1703 end of the fourth year shall not require that there be any freeze on employee compensation. 1704 (d) Elimination of the duplication of functions shall be addressed through attrition and reassignment. Therefore, no permanent full-time employee of the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County, Georgia, at the time of unification shall suffer any diminution of 1706 compensation resulting from the adoption of this charter. This provision shall not apply to

any position which requires appointment by the mayor and confirmation by a majority of the 1708 1709 commission under paragraph (2) of Section 3-105 of this charter. 1710 (e) All new employees hired by the governing authorities of Baldwin County and the City of Milledgeville following the ratification of this charter by the voters shall be deemed 1711 temporary employees until such employment is ratified by the unified government of 1712 1713 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia. 1714 **SECTION 9-103.** 1715 Effective date of charter. 1716 This charter shall become fully effective in accordance with Section 9-112 of this charter upon the election of a mayor, vice mayor, and board of commissioners for 1717 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and their taking office as the governing authority 1718 1719 of the unified government. **SECTION 9-104.** 1720 Initial budget. 1721 1722 The first full 12 month budget of the unified government shall not exceed an amount equal to the combined fiscal year general operating budgets of the City of Milledgeville and 1723 1724 Baldwin County from the immediately preceding fiscal year of the City of Milledgeville and 1725 Baldwin County, plus increases due to inflation as specified in the Consumer Price Index 1726 from the United States government, if approved, but not including capital road improvements and other special revenue funds under special purpose local option sales taxes or additional 1727 1728 transfer tax fees. 1729 **SECTION 9-105.** Number of employees. 1730 For a period of 24 months from the effective date of this charter, the total number of 1731 employees of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall not exceed the combined 1732

number of employees authorized for the governments of the former City of Milledgeville and

Baldwin County on the effective date of this charter except as otherwise mandated by law.

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1736 Cooperation of former governments.

- 1737 (a) All officers, officials, and employees of the former City of Milledgeville and Baldwin
- 1738 County shall cooperate with and assist the mayor; the board of commissioners; the
- 1739 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, county manager; and other officers of
- 1740 Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia:
- 1741 (1) In planning the unification of departments, boards, commissions, authorities, and
- agencies of such former governments and in transferring the functions, duties, and
- 1743 responsibilities of such departments, boards, commissions, authorities, and agencies to
- the appropriate agencies of the unified government of Milledgeville-Baldwin County,
- 1745 Georgia; and
- 1746 (2) In all other respects in order that the merger of the governments be accomplished in
- the most orderly manner possible. The officers of the unified government shall be
- entitled to examine all records, files, and other data in the possession of the former
- governments and of all officers, officials, employees, and departments thereof. The
- former governments shall, to the extent possible, provide working areas and facilities for
- the officers of the unified government.
- 1752 (b) During the time period beginning upon the ratification of this charter by the voters and
- extending until this charter becomes fully effective, it shall be illegal for any member of the
- 1754 governing authority of Baldwin County or the governing authority of the City of
- 1755 Milledgeville to violate the terms of this charter.
- 1756 (c) During the time period beginning upon the ratification of this charter by the voters and
- extending until this charter becomes fully effective, the governing authority of the City of
- 1758 Milledgeville and the governing authority of Baldwin County shall not be authorized to
- increase their respective budgets by more than 10 percent above the budget level existing on
- the date of the ratification of this charter by the voters.

1761 **SECTION 9-107.**

Existing ordinances and resolutions continued in effect.

- 1763 (a) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, existing ordinances and resolutions of the Board
- 1764 of Commissioners of Baldwin County and existing rules and regulations of county
- departments or agencies, not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter, shall continue
- in effect as ordinances, resolutions, rules, or regulations of Milledgeville-Baldwin County,
- 1767 Georgia, or the appropriate department or agency thereof until they have been repealed,
- 1768 modified, or amended.

(b) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, existing ordinances and resolutions of the City of Milledgeville, not inconsistent with the provisions of this charter, shall continue in effect as ordinances and resolutions of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, and shall apply only to the area included within the urban services district until they have been repealed, modified, or amended.

(c) Subject to subsection (d) of this section, in the event of a conflict between any of the ordinances or resolutions continued by this section, the provisions thereof shall apply only to the territory of the unified government that such ordinance or resolution applied prior to the effective date of this charter and until such ordinance or resolution is repealed, changed, or amended to eliminate the conflict.

(d) Twenty-four months after the effective date of this charter, all ordinances and resolutions shall apply uniformly throughout the area of the unified government. Prior to this date, the commission shall review all ordinances and resolutions and take whatever action is needed to remove any conflicts between ordinances and resolutions continued by this section in order to produce a uniform body of ordinances and resolutions, free of any conflicts or contradictions between such provisions.

SECTION 9-108.

Contracts and obligations.

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, all contracts, orders, leases, bonds, and other obligations or instruments entered into by Baldwin County or for its benefit prior to the effective date of this charter shall continue in effect according to the terms thereof as obligations and rights of the unified government; provided, however, that any obligation created by Baldwin County to become effective after the date of approval of this charter and prior to the effective date of this charter shall be subject to ratification and approval by the Board of Commissioners of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, within six months following the effective date of this charter.

(b) Except as otherwise provided by this charter, contracts, orders, leases, bonds, and other obligations or instruments entered into by the City of Milledgeville or for its benefit prior to the effective date of this charter shall continue in effect according to the terms thereof as obligations and rights of the unified government; provided, however, that any obligation created by the City of Milledgeville to become effective after the date of approval of this charter and prior to the effective date of this charter shall be subject to ratification and approval by the Board of Commissioners of Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, within six months following the effective date of this charter.

(c) No pending action or proceeding of any nature, whether civil, criminal, judicial, administrative, or other, by or against the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County or an agency or department thereof, shall be abated or otherwise affected by the adoption of this charter, and Milledgeville-Baldwin County, Georgia, shall stand substituted as a party in lieu thereof.

SECTION 9-109.

Dissolution of existing governments.

On the effective date of this charter, the Board of Commissioners of Baldwin County and the mayor and council of the City of Milledgeville and all the officers thereof and the offices thereof not continued under this charter shall be repealed and abolished, and all emoluments appertaining thereto shall cease. Thereupon, the governments of Baldwin County and the City of Milledgeville shall terminate as separate political entities, and all powers, functions, duties, and obligations thereof shall be transferred to and vested in the unified government created by this charter.

SECTION 9-110.

Transfer of records and equipment.

When an agency of the City of Milledgeville or of Baldwin County is abolished or unified by this charter, all books, papers, maps, charts, plans, records, other equipment, and personal property in possession of such agency shall be delivered to the agency to which its rights, powers, duties, and obligations are transferred.

SECTION 9-111.

1824 Officers serve until successors qualify.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this charter, any officer performing duties under the government of the City of Milledgeville or Baldwin County may continue to perform the duties thereof until a successor, whether under the same title or office of another, shall be elected or appointed and qualified to perform the duties, it being the intention hereof that no duty or service shall lapse or be abandoned because of lack of an officer to perform such duty or service.

1831 **SECTION 9-112.**

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1832 Referendum on the charter.

(a) If it is permissible under Code Section 21-2-540 of the O.C.G.A. to conduct a special election to submit a referendum to the voters on the third Tuesday in July, 2015, it shall be the duty of the Baldwin County Board of Elections to call an election for approval or rejection of the proposed charter to be held on such date; otherwise, it shall be the duty of the Baldwin County Board of Elections to call an election for approval or rejection of the proposed charter to be held on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November, 2015. The board shall cause the date and purpose of the election to be published once a week for two calendar weeks immediately preceding the date thereof in the official legal organ of Baldwin County. The ballot shall have written or printed thereon the following:

- 1843 "() YES Shall the charter unifying the governments of the City of Milledgeville and
- 1844 () NO Baldwin County and creating a single county-wide government to supersede 1845 and replace those governments be approved?"
 - (b) All persons desiring to vote for approval of the charter shall vote "Yes," and those persons desiring to vote for rejection of the charter shall vote "No." If more than one-half of the votes cast by the qualified voters of Baldwin County residing within the corporate limits of the City of Milledgeville are for approval of the charter and if more than one-half of the total votes cast by all the qualified voters of Baldwin County are for approval of the charter, then the charter shall become effective for the purposes of electing the mayor and commission and for transition activities immediately and for all purposes on July 1, 2016, if the election is held in July, 2015, or on January 1, 2017, if the election is held on the Tuesday immediately following the first Monday in November, 2015. Otherwise, it shall be void and of no force and effect and shall stand repealed by operation of law. The expense of such election shall be borne equally by the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County.
- 1857 (c) The special election shall be conducted pursuant to Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the
- O.C.G.A., the "Georgia Election Code," except to the extent specifically provided otherwise
- by this charter.
- 1860 (d) A qualified voter, as used herein, shall mean a voter of Baldwin County qualified to vote
- 1861 for members of the General Assembly of Georgia. The board shall certify the returns to the
- 1862 Secretary of State. The board shall also furnish a certified copy of the charter to the
- 1863 Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall issue a proclamation showing and declaring
- 1864 the result of the election on the approval or rejection of the charter. One copy of the
- proclamation shall be attached to the copy of the charter certified to the Secretary of State.
- One copy of the proclamation shall be delivered to the clerk of the governing authority of the

City of Milledgeville who shall attach the same to the copy of the charter previously certified to him or her. One copy of the proclamation shall be delivered to the clerk of the governing authority of Baldwin County who shall attach the same to the copy of the charter previously certified to him or her.

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- (e) Whenever a charter for the unification of the governments of the City of Milledgeville and Baldwin County has been accepted, the certified copies thereof as provided for in this section, with the proclamation of the Secretary of State of Georgia attached thereto, shall be deemed duplicate original copies of the charter of the unified government for all purposes. The certified copy of the charter and proclamation deposited with the clerk of the governing authority of the City of Milledgeville and the certified copy of the charter and proclamation deposited with the clerk of the governing authority of Baldwin County shall subsequently be delivered by them to the successor government. The successor government may issue certified copies of the charter, and any copy so certified shall be deemed a duplicate original copy of the charter of the unified government for all purposes. The Secretary of State is authorized to issue certified copies of the charter on file, and copies so certified shall be deemed duplicate original copies of the charter of the unified government for all purposes. (f) Upon the approval of this charter, a transition team shall be established and initially composed of two members appointed by the member of the Senate who represents Baldwin County, two members appointed by the member of the House of Representatives who represents Baldwin County, the mayor of the City of Milledgeville, and the chairperson of the Board of Commissioners of Baldwin County. Upon their election, the members of the Milledgeville-Baldwin County unified government shall become members of the transition team. In the event that one or more newly elected members are already serving on the transition team, no additional member shall be added to replace such person.
- 1891 (g) Funding for transition activities shall come from the additional franchise fees that will become available from the unincorporated areas of Baldwin County upon adoption of the unified charter.
- 1894 (h) The transition team may make recommendations for revisions of the charter through the state legislative process prior to the actual implementation of the charter.
- 1896 (i) The following shall be the transition operational timeline:
- The charter shall be submitted to the General Assembly requesting that local legislation allowing a vote on the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Unified Government Charter take place in July, 2015, if permissible under Code Section 21-2-540, or in conjunction with the November, 2015, municipal general election. If the referendum is approved in July, 2015, elect commissioners for the Milledgeville-Baldwin County Unified Government in November, 2015.

1903 2016 Merge all city and county departments and request the General Assembly to enact 1904 local legislation authorizing the formation of a Milledgeville-Baldwin County 1905 Water and Sewer Authority. If the referendum on the approval of the charter is 1906 held in conjunction with the 2015 November municipal general election, elect 1907 mayor, vice mayor, and commissioners for the Milledgeville-Baldwin County 1908 Unified Government at the 2016 presidential preference primary. If the mayor, vice mayor, and commissioners were elected in November, 2015, the unified 1909 1910 government shall begin on July 1, 2016. 1911 2017 If the mayor, vice mayor, and commissioners are elected at the 2016 presidential preference primary, then the unified government shall begin on January 1, 2017. 1912 1913 All remaining departments and offices of the Baldwin County government and the 1914 City of Milledgeville government shall be merged as soon as practicable following the initiation of the new unified government. 1915 ARTICLE X REPEALS

1916 ARTICLE X
1917 REPEALS
1918 SECTION 10-101.
1919 Specific repeals.

- 1920 (a) Upon this charter becoming fully effective, an Act providing for a new charter for the 1921 City of Milledgeville, approved December 15, 1900 (Ga. L. 1900, p. 345), and all 1922 amendatory Acts thereto, is repealed.
- 1923 (b) Upon this charter becoming fully effective, an Act creating the Board of Commissioners 1924 of Baldwin County, approved December 26, 1888 (Ga. L. 1888, p. 286), and all amendatory 1925 Acts thereto, is repealed.

1926 **SECTION 10-102.**1927 Repeal of conflicting laws.

1928 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this charter are hereby repealed.

Plan: MillBaldCC-2015 Plan Type: Local Administrator: H145

User: Gina

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District 001
Baldwin County
VTD: 009319 - WEST BALDWIN
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VTD: 009CTY1 - SOUTH MILLEDGEVILLE

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970400:

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970500:

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VTD: 009CTY5 - FIRE DEPT

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2005 2006 2007 2008 2010 2015 2016 2017

VTD: 009CTY6 - NORTH MILLEDGEVILLE

970400:

1006 1010 1011 2004 2018

VTD: 009MERI - MERIWEATHER

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2019 2020 2023 2025 2026 3018 3019 3020 3022 3023 3026 3027

District 002

Baldwin County

VTD: 009318 - NORTH BALDWIN

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2062 2064 2067 2068 2087

970400:

1002 1005

VTD: 009CTY1 - SOUTH MILLEDGEVILLE

970200:

2004 2005 2022

970300:

2031 2042 2043 2045 2047 2049 2050

VTD: 009CTY3 - BODDIE

970200:

3040 3041 3042 3056 3057 3058 3059 3060 3069 3070 4003

VTD: 009CTY5 - FIRE DEPT

970200:

3061 3062 3063

VTD: 009CTY6 - NORTH MILLEDGEVILLE

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970200:

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District 003
Baldwin County
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3067
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VTD: 009CTY2 - CITY HALL ANNEX
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VTD: 009CTY5 - FIRE DEPT
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District 004
Baldwin County
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Baldwin County
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