

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3463

Introduced by Representative Nicasio M. Aliping, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This is a re-filed bill seeking to revise the century-old charter of the City of Baguio.

The preceding bills (HB 3617 in the 13th Congress, HB 2813 in the 14th Congress, and HB 121 in the 15th Congress) were filed primarily with the following objectives: settle the boundary dispute of the city with the adjoining municipality of Tuba, effectively implement the city government's land use development plan, and address the problem in the disposition of alienable and disposable public lands within the Baguio townsite reservation.

This bill carries the same objectives given that these concerns continue to weigh heavily on the City of Baguio. More importantly, this bill seeks the revision of the charter to adapt to developments that have evolved since the enactment of the City's original charter.

Consultation and dialogue were thus conducted with several stakeholders after the President's veto of the bill that was approved by the 15th Congress. This bill is substantially the same but changes were made to address the objections raised in the veto message.

It is therefore ardently sought that this bill be approved.

NICASIO M. ALIPING, JR.

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AN ACT
REVISING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BAGUIO

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “Revised Charter of the City of Baguio”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Objectives and Core Values. — The objectives of the City of Baguio are herein established, as follows:

(a) To make the City of Baguio a home of diverse and dynamic cultures, a center of education, trade and tourism in harmony with nature, managed by God-loving, steadfast leaders in partnership with responsible and peace-loving citizens;

(b) To utilize an integrated life cycle approach to environmental management; promote eco-cultural tourism and tourism-related micro enterprises; ensure the sustenance of the City of Baguio as an educational center of Northern Luzon; develop and implement an investment portfolio and an aggressive marketing strategy;

(c) To achieve effectiveness and efficiency in local governance for the promotion of the general welfare and the delivery of basic services;

(d) To maximize the exercise of the City's proprietary functions for the general welfare, the provision of basic services and facilities, the management of its economic enterprises and the power to generate and apply resources, subject to such limitations as provided under this Act and other laws.

In the pursuit of these objectives, the City of Baguio shall be guided by the following core values, namely: service, honesty, transparency, accountability, resourcefulness, and creativity.

SEC. 3. *The City of Baguio: Territorial Boundaries.* — The City of Baguio, a highly-urbanized city also popularly known as the Summer Capital of the Philippines, shall comprise the present territory of the City of Baguio.

The foregoing provision shall be without prejudice to the resolution by the appropriate agency or forum of any boundary dispute or case involving questions of territorial jurisdiction, as well as, agreements or exchange of portions of territories between the City of Baguio and the adjoining local government units. Any such resolution or agreement shall be appended hereto.

SEC. 4. *Political and Corporate Nature.* — The City of Baguio is a body politic and corporate entity endowed with powers to be exercised by it in conformity with law. As such, it shall exercise powers as a political subdivision of the national government and as a corporate entity representing the inhabitants of its territory.

As a political subdivision, the City shall exercise the following governmental powers:

(a) To create, merge, divide or abolish barangay units in accordance with the criteria set forth by law: *Provided*, that existing barangay units that do not meet the criteria shall be merged in accordance with law;

(b) To establish government centers for offices, agencies or branches of the national government, local government units or government owned and controlled corporations;

- (c) To change the names of barangay units, streets, roads, structures and public places in coordination with the National Historical Institute;
- (d) To promote the general welfare;
- (e) To provide basic services and facilities;
- (f) To give priority to basic and higher education to ensure its sustenance as an educational center;
- (g) To generate and apply resources;
- (h) To exercise the power of eminent domain;
- (i) To reclassify lands subject to national law; and
- (j) To close or open roads, alleys, parks or squares within its jurisdiction.

As a corporate entity, the City shall exercise the following powers:

- (1) To have continuous succession in its corporate name;
- (2) To sue and be sued;
- (3) To have and use a corporate seal;
- (4) To acquire and convey real and personal property;
- (5) To enter into contracts; and
- (6) To exercise such other powers as are granted to corporations, subject to the limitations provided by this Act and other laws.

ARTICLE II **CITY OFFICIALS**

SEC. 5. Officials of the City of Baguio. – (a) There shall be in the City of Baguio: a city mayor, a city vice mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city engineer, a city buildings and architecture officer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city accountant, a city social welfare and development officer, a city budget officer, a city planning and development officer, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city general services officer, a city veterinarian, a city human

resource management officer, a city environment and parks management officer, a city tourism officer, a city information officer, and a city librarian. In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a city agriculturist, a city population officer, a city natural resources officer, and a city cooperatives officer.

(b) A congressman shall represent the City as a lone legislative district until otherwise provided by law.

(c) The City, through the sangguniang panlungsod, may maintain existing offices not mentioned in subsection (a) hereof, create such other offices as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the City, and consolidate the functions of any office with those of another in the interest of efficiency and economy.

(d) Unless otherwise provided herein, heads of departments and offices shall be appointed by the city mayor with the concurrence of the majority of all the sangguniang panlungsod members, subject to civil service law, rules and regulations. The sangguniang panlungsod shall act on the appointment within fifteen (15) days from the date of its submission, otherwise the same shall be deemed confirmed.

(e) Elective and appointive city officials shall receive such compensation, allowances, and other emoluments as may be determined by law or ordinance, subject to the budgetary limitations on personal services prescribed under Title Five, Book II of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended: *Provided*, that no increase in compensation of the mayor, vice mayor and sangguniang panlungsod members shall take effect until after the expiration of the full term of the said local officials approving such increase.

ARTICLE III CITY MAYOR

SEC. 6. City Mayor. — (a) The city mayor shall be the chief executive of the City and shall hold office in the city hall. He or she shall exercise such powers and perform such duties and functions as provided by this Act and other laws.

(b) For efficient, effective and economical governance the purpose of which is the general welfare of the city and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, the city mayor shall:

(1) Exercise general supervision and control over all programs, projects, services, and activities of the city government;

(2) Enforce all laws and ordinances relative to the governance of the City and, in the exercise of the appropriate corporate powers provided for under this Act, implement all approved policies, programs, projects, services and activities of the City;

(3) Initiate and maximize the generation of resources and revenues, and apply the same to the implementation of development plans, program objectives and priorities as provided for under Section 18 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, particularly those resources and revenues programmed for agro-industrial development and countryside growth and progress;

(4) Ensure the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities as provided for under Section 17 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended; and

(5) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE IV CITY VICE MAYOR

SEC. 7. *City Vice Mayor:* — The city vice mayor shall:

(1) Be the presiding officer of the sangguniang panlungsod and sign all warrants drawn on the city treasury for all expenditures appropriated for the operation of the sangguniang panlungsod;

(2) Subject to civil service law, rules and regulations, appoint all officials and employees of the sangguniang panlungsod, except those whose manner of appointment is specifically provided in this Act;

(3) Assume the office of the city mayor for the unexpired term of the latter in the event of permanent vacancy as provided for in Section 11 of this Act and Section 44, Book I of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended;

(4) Exercise the powers and perform the duties and functions of the city mayor in cases of temporary vacancy as provided for in Section 46, Book I of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and;

(5) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE V **THE SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD**

SEC. 8. *The Sangguniang Panlungsod.* — (a) *Composition* - The sangguniang panlungsod shall be composed of the city vice mayor as presiding officer, the twelve (12) elected regular sangguniang panlungsod members, the president of the liga ng mga barangay, the president of the pederasyon ng mga sangguniang kabataan, and three (3) sectoral representatives who shall come from the following sectors: one (1) from the women sector; and, as shall be determined by the sangguniang panglunsod within ninety (90) days prior to the holding of the local elections, one (1) from the agricultural or industrial workers sector and one (1) from the other sectors, including urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, or persons with disabilities.

(b) *Election.* — The regular members of the sangguniang panlungsod and the sectoral representatives shall be elected in the manner provided by law.

SEC. 9. *Powers, Duties, and Functions.* — (a) The sangguniang panlungsod, as the legislative body of the City, shall enact ordinances, approve resolutions and appropriate funds for the general welfare of the City and its inhabitants pursuant to Section 16 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and in the proper exercise of the corporate powers of the City as provided for under this Act.

(b) It shall exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE VI **QUALIFICATIONS, DISQUALIFICATION AND SUCCESSION** **OF ELECTIVE CITY OFFICIALS**

SEC. 10. Qualifications and Disqualification of Elective City Officials. — Elective city officials shall possess the same qualifications as those enumerated in Section 39 of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and shall be disqualified from running for any elective position in the city upon any of the grounds provided in Section 40 thereof or upon any other ground provided by law.

SEC. 11. Permanent Vacancy in the Offices of the City Mayor and the City Vice Mayor.

— (a) If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the city mayor, the city vice mayor concerned shall become the city mayor. If a permanent vacancy occurs in the office of the city vice mayor, the highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod member or, in case of his or her permanent incapacity, the second highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod member becomes the city mayor or the city vice mayor, as the case may be. Subsequent vacancies in the said offices shall be filled automatically by the other sanggunian members according to their ranking as defined herein.

(b) A tie between or among the highest ranking sangguniang panlungsod members shall be resolved by drawing of lots.

(c) The successors as defined herein shall serve only the unexpired terms of their predecessors.

(d) For purposes of this Act, a permanent vacancy arises when an elective local official fills in a higher vacant office, refuses to assume office, fails to qualify, dies, is removed from office, voluntarily resigns, or is otherwise permanently incapacitated to discharge the functions of his or her office.

(e) For purposes of succession as provided herein, ranking in the sanggunian shall be determined on the basis of the proportion of votes obtained by each winning candidate to the total number of registered voters in the constituency in the immediately preceding local election.

SEC. 12. Permanent Vacancies in the Sangguniang Panlungsod. — (a) Permanent vacancies in the sangguniang panlungsod where automatic succession as provided in the immediately preceding section does not apply shall be filled by appointment by the President.

(b) Only the nominee of the political party under which the sanggunian member concerned had been elected and whose elevation to the position next higher in rank created the

last vacancy in the sanggunian shall be appointed in the manner hereinabove provided. The appointee shall come from the same political party as that of the sanggunian member who caused the vacancy and shall serve the unexpired term of the vacant office. In the appointment herein mentioned, a nomination and a certificate of membership of the appointee from the highest official of the political party concerned are conditions *sine qua non*, and any appointment without such nomination and certification shall be null and void *ab initio* and shall be ground for administrative action against the official responsible therefor.

(c) In case the permanent vacancy is caused by a sanggunian member who does not belong to any political party, the city mayor shall, upon recommendation of the sanggunian concerned, appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy.

(d) In case of vacancy in the representation of the youth and the barangay in the sanggunian, said vacancy shall be filled automatically by the official next in rank of the organization concerned.

ARTICLE VII COMPENSATION OF CITY OFFICIALS

SEC. 13. Compensation of City Officials. – Incumbent city officials and employees shall continue to receive their present salaries and benefits in accordance with the salary grades and rates prescribed under Republic Act No. 6758, as amended, otherwise known as the “Compensation and Position Classification Act of 1989”, and the implementing guidelines issued pursuant thereto.

ARTICLE VIII APPOINTIVE CITY OFFICIALS AND THEIR QUALIFICATIONS, FUNCTIONS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

SEC. 14. The Secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod. – (a) There shall be a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod who shall be a career official with the rank and salary equal to a head of a department or office and who shall be appointed by the city vice mayor with the concurrence of the majority of all sangguniang panlungsod members as provided herein.

(b) No person shall be appointed secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod unless he or she is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a

college degree preferably in law, commerce or public administration from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in legislative service for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment.

(c) The secretary to the sanggunian shall take charge of the office of the sangguniang panlungsod and shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 15. *The City Treasurer.* — (a) The city treasurer shall be appointed by the Secretary of Finance from a list of at least three (3) ranking eligible recommendees of the city mayor, subject to civil service law, rules and regulations.

(b) The city treasurer shall be under the administrative supervision of the city mayor, to whom he or she shall report regularly on the tax collection efforts of the City, and shall take charge of the city treasury office.

(c) No person shall be appointed city treasurer unless he or she is a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in commerce, public administration or law from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment.

(d) The city treasurer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 16. *The City Assessor.* — (a) The city assessor must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in civil or mechanical engineering, commerce or any other related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in real property assessment work or in any related field for at least five (5) years

immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city assessor's office.

(b) The city assessor shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 17. *The City Engineer.* – (a) The city engineer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character and a licensed civil engineer. He or she must have acquired experience in the practice of his or her profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city engineering office.

(b) The city engineer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 18. *The City Buildings and Architecture Officer.* – (a) The city buildings and architecture officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, and a licensed architect or civil engineer. He or she must have acquired experience in the practice of his or her profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city buildings and architecture office.

(b) The city buildings and architecture officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 19. *The City Health Officer.* – (a) The city health officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character and a licensed medical practitioner. He or she must have acquired experience in the practice of his or her profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city health services office.

(b) The city health officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 20. *The City Civil Registrar.* — (a) The city civil registrar must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in civil registry work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the office of the city civil registry.

(b) The city civil registrar shall be responsible for the civil registration program in the City pursuant to the Civil Registry Law, the Civil Code and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations issued to implement them.

(c) The city civil registrar shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, including extra-judicial functions under Republic Act No. 9048, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 21. *The City Accountant.* — (a) The city accountant must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character and a certified public accountant. He or she must have acquired experience in treasury or accounting service for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of both the city accounting office and the city internal audit services office.

(b) The city accountant shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 22. *The City Social Welfare and Development Officer.* — (a) The city social welfare and development officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a duly licensed social worker and a holder of a college degree preferably in sociology, social work or any other related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in the practice of social work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the office of social welfare and development.

(b) The city social welfare and development officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 23. *The City Budget Officer.* – (a) The city budget officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in accounting, economics, public administration or any related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in government budgeting or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city budget office.

(b) The city budget officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 24. *The City Planning and Development Officer.* – (a) The city planning and development officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in urban or environmental planning, development studies, economics, public administration or any related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in development planning or in any related field for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city planning and development coordinating office.

(b) The city planning and development officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 25. *The City Administrator.* — (a) The city administrator must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in public administration, law or any other related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in management and administrative work for at least five (5) years immediately

preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city administrator's office.

(b) The term of the city administrator is co-terminus with that of the appointing authority.

(c) The city administrator shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 26. *The City Legal Officer.* — (a) The city legal officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character and a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. He or she must have practiced his or her profession for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and, as the chief legal counsel of the City, shall take charge of the city legal services office.

(b) The term of the city legal officer shall be co-terminus with that of the appointing authority.

(c) The city legal officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 27. *The City General Services Officer.* — (a) The city general services officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree in public administration, business administration or management from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in general services, including the management of supply and property, for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city general services office.

(b) The city general services officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 28. *The City Veterinarian.* — (a) The city veterinarian must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, and a licensed doctor of veterinary medicine. He or she must have practiced his or her profession for at least three (3) years

immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city veterinary services office.

(b) The city veterinarian shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 29. *The City Human Resource Management Officer.* – (a) The city human resource management officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a human resource management or development practitioner and a holder of a college degree in management or any other related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in the practice of human resource management or development, the administration, execution, coordination and supervision of activities involving personnel operations, and the implementation of civil service laws, rules and regulations for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city human resource management office.

(b) The city human resource management officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance or civil service rules and issuances.

SEC. 30. *The City Environment and Parks Management Officer.* – (a) The city environment and parks management officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a duly licensed sanitary engineer or a holder of a college degree in forestry, watershed and parks management or any other related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in solid and liquid waste management, general sanitation, and forestry, watershed and parks management for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city environment and parks management office.

(b) The city environment and parks management officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 31. *The City Tourism Officer.* — (a) The city tourism officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably with specialized training in tourism development from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in the implementation of programs on tourism development for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city tourism office.

(b) The city tourism officer shall assist the city mayor and the local tourism council in developing and implementing tourism-related programs and perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 32. *The City Public Information Officer.* — (a) The city public information officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in journalism, mass communications or any related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in writing articles and research papers or in writing for print, television or broadcast media for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city public information office.

(b) The city public information officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 33. *The City Librarian.* — (a) The city librarian must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in library science or any related course from a recognized college or university, a licensed librarian and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in library administration for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city library.

(b) The city librarian shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 34. *The City Agriculturist.* — (a) The city agriculturist must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in agriculture or any other related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have practiced his or her profession in agriculture or acquired the experience for at least five (5) years preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city agricultural services office.

(b) The city agriculturist shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 35. *The City Population Officer.* — (a) The city population officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably with specialized training in population development from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in the implementation of programs on population development or responsible parenthood for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city office on population development.

(b) The city population officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 36. *The City Natural Resources Officer.* — (a) The city natural resources officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in environment, forestry, agriculture or any other related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in environmental protection and ecology, and natural resources management, conservation and utilization work for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city natural resources office.

(b) The city natural resources officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

SEC. 37. *The City Cooperatives Officer.* — (a) The city cooperatives officer must be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the City, of good moral character, a holder of a college degree preferably in business administration with special training on cooperatives or any related course from a recognized college or university and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He or she must have acquired experience in cooperatives development for at least five (5) years immediately preceding the date of his or her appointment and shall take charge of the city office for the development of cooperatives.

(b) The city cooperatives officer shall perform such duties and functions and exercise such powers as provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE IX BOARDS AND COUNCILS

SEC. 38. *Boards and Councils.* — The boards and councils, created pursuant to the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, such as, but not limited to, city school board, city health board, city development council, and city peace and order council, shall exist and function as provided for by law. Other boards and councils such as, but not limited to, city tourism council, city convention and visitors bureau, sister-cities committee, character city committee, city traffic and transportation management committee, city disaster and risk reduction management council, city solid waste management board, city market authority, and Burnham Park management authority shall exist and function as provided for by law or ordinance.

ARTICLE X BAGUIO TOWNSITE RESERVATION AND WATERSHEDS

SEC. 39. *Alienable and Disposable Lands.* — The disposition and award to actual occupants or qualified applicants of alienable and disposable residential lands within the Baguio Townsite Reservation shall be by means of application for free patent or miscellaneous sales application filed with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources pursuant to

Republic Act No. 10023, otherwise known as “An Act Authorizing the Issuance of Free Patents to Residential Lands”, and such other law authorizing the grant of award directly to qualified actual occupants of alienable and disposable residential lands.

SEC. 40. *City Watersheds.* — The City shall protect, preserve and develop its watersheds and shall impose penal sanctions on anyone who infringes on said water sources of the City.

ARTICLE XI ANCESTRAL LANDS

SEC. 41. *Ancestral Lands.* — The legitimate ancestral lands pursuant to Republic Act No. 8371, otherwise known as the “Indigenous People’s Rights Act”, are considered as private properties or lands which are not part of the Baguio Townsite Reservation.

ARTICLE XII CAMP JOHN HAY RESERVATION

SEC. 42. *The Camp John Hay Reservation.* — The former Camp John Hay Reservation, including that portion of its area that was created and designated under Proclamation No. 420 dated July 5, 1994 as the John Hay Special Economic Zone pursuant to Republic Act No. 7227, otherwise known as the “Bases Conversion and Development Act of 1992”, is considered as private property or land which is not part of the Baguio Townsite Reservation: *Provided*, that the 19 conditionalities in the formulation by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority of the master development plan for Camp John Hay set under City Resolution No. 362, series of 1994, shall continue to be respected and remain in force and effect.

ARTICLE XIII TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

SEC. 43. *Ordinances and Provisions of the Old Charter Existing at the Time of the Approval of this Act.* — Unless inconsistent with this Act, all ordinances of the City of Baguio and the provisions of the old Charter of the City of Baguio as contained in the Revised Administrative Code of 1917, as amended, existing at the time of the approval of this Act shall continue to be in force and effect.

SEC. 44. Incumbent Representative and other Elective and Appointive Officials of the City of Baguio. — The incumbent Representative of the Lone Legislative District of the City of Baguio and other elective and appointive officials of the City shall continue to exercise their powers and functions during their term or tenure pursuant to existing laws.

SEC. 45. Representative District. — Until otherwise provided by law, the City of Baguio shall continue to exist as a Lone Legislative District.

SEC. 46. Identity of the City. — The City shall retain its identity as a highly-urbanized city, and shall remain part of the Cordillera Administrative Region. The City may form part of any growth corridor that will be established or of any grouping of local government units that will be undertaken to consolidate or coordinate their efforts, services, and resources for purposes commonly beneficial to them such as, but not limited to, the BLISTT concept (Baguio, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba, and Tublay).

ARTICLE XIV FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 47. Separability Clause. — If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions hereof shall remain valid and effective.

SEC. 48. Applicability of Laws. — The provisions of the Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and such other laws applicable to highly-urbanized cities shall govern the City insofar as they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 49. Repealing Clause. — The provisions of the Charter of the City of Baguio as contained in the Revised Administrative Code of 1917, as amended, and all other laws, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 50. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,