ARTICLE VIII. - ELECTIONS

§ 8.01. - City elections.

Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, the Florida Election Code shall apply to City elections.

§ 8.02. - Council districts; adjustment of districts.

(a) *Number of districts*. There shall be seven (7) city council districts.

(b) *Districting commission*. The council shall appoint seven (7) qualified electors, determined from the registration for the last statewide general election, who shall comprise the districting commission. The electors chosen shall not be City employees.

(c) *Report; specifications*. Within six (6) months after the completion and receipt of the federal census and at least each ten (10) years thereafter. The districting commission shall file with the City Clerk a report containing a recommended plan for adjustment of the council district boundaries to comply with these specifications:

(1) Insofar as practicable, each district shall be formed of compact, contiguous territory, and its boundary lines shall follow the centerlines of streets or canals.

(2) Each district shall contain, as nearly as possible equal population.

The report shall include a map and description of the districts recommended and shall be drafted as a proposed ordinance. Once filed with the clerk the report shall be treated as an ordinance introduced by a council member.

(d) *Procedure*. The procedure for the council's consideration of the report shall be the same as for other ordinances, provided that if a summary of the ordinance is published, it must include both the map and the description of the recommended districts.

(e) *Failure to enact ordinance*. The council shall act on the proposed ordinance at least one hundred and twenty (120) days before the next primary city election. If the council fails to do so by such date, all council members to be nominated at such election shall be nominated at large, and the districting commission shall reconvene and adjust the district boundaries in accordance with the specifications, requirements and procedures earlier provided in this section, except that the ordinance shall be enacted at least one hundred and twenty (120) days before the next primary city election following such election at large.

(f) *Effect of enactment*. The new council districts and boundaries, as of the date of enactment, shall supersede previous council districts and boundaries for all the purposes of the next regular city election, including nominations. The new districts and boundaries shall supersede previous

districts and boundaries for all other purposes as of the date on which all council members elected at that regular city election take office.

(Ord. 125-02, 12-9-2002, Approved by referendum vote on April 8, 2003)