

Chap. 8281, Laws of Florida—1919

Office of Mayor re-created by amendment to be accepted or rejected by the electors. (This amendment was adopted at the election of June 17, 1919.)

Ordinance P-18, October 28, 1919

Wards 12, 13, 14 and 15 created. Four Delegates were admitted to the Council, one from each ward. Council increased thereby to 22 members—one from each ward and seven at large.

Chap. 8979, Laws of Florida—1921

Provided for a City Council to be composed of one member from each ward and six at large, effective June 21, 1921.

Chap. 9788, Laws of Florida—1923

Playground and Recreation Board created; to consist of five members serving without pay; appointed by the Mayor biennially. (Became a law without the approval of the Governor.)

Growth of the City Government

The evolution of Jacksonville's government through its various stages is a story full of interest. Before the War Between the States the Mayor and the City Council served without compensation—for the honor of the office. The blanket charter of 1869 changed it all, for coming into the hands of outsiders, the city government was operated with a high hand and without regard to expenses. When the home people gained control again in the election of 1876, they were confronted by a depleted treasury and the accumulated waste of half a dozen years. It took some time to build it up again.

Ward representation was created by the Charter of 1887. The Board of Public Works was created at the same time, an infant that grew into a powerful board in after years. The board commonly called the Board of Bond Trustees was created by the City Council in 1893. Its powers were enlarged from time to time, until, by its absorption of other boards and finally the Board of Public Works in 1911, it became the city governing board in fact.