Gay, Incorporated

An Act to incorporate the town of Gay, in the county of Meriwether, and to grant certain powers and privileges to said town, and for other purposes.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Georgia, and it is hereby enacted by authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this Act the town of Gay, that the municipal government of the town of Gay shall be vested in a mayor and four councilmen, who are hereby constituted a body corporate under the name and style of the town of Gay, and by that name and style shall have perpetual succession, and shall have a common seal and be capable in law and equity to purchase have, hold receive and enjoy, possess and retain to them and their successors, for the use of the town of Gay, any estate, real or personal, of whatever kind or nature, and shall by the same name be capable to sue and be sued in any court of law or equity in this State, and to sell, alien and lease any estate, real or personal, the property of or belonging to said corporation, or convey the same or any part thereof in any manner or way whatever; that the territory embraced within the following boundary shall constitute the town of Gay: Beginning at the center of the crossing of the Greenville public road and the Flat Shoals public road at Gay, Georgia, in the ninth district of Meriwether county, and extending one-half mile from said point in every direction, making the limits of said town include all the territory embraced within a circle, being one mile in diameter, all of said territory embraced being in the Middle ninth district of Meriwether county, Georgia.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That W.F. Gay be, and he is, hereby appointed mayor of said town, and J.W. Estes, J.T. Mann, W.N. Estes and J.R. Gay be, and they are, hereby appointed councilmen of said town, to hold their offices until the first annual election in said town in the year 1908, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The above-named officers to enter upon the discharge of their duties upon their taking oath to well and truly administer the affairs of their said office, immediately upon passage of this Act.

Sec. 3. 'Be it' further enacted by the authority aforesaid. That an election held in said town, at such place as the mayor of said town shall direct and designate, on the first Monday in January, 1908, and on the first Monday in January in each year thereafter, for a mayor and four councilmen, who shall hold their offices for one year or until their successors are elected and qualified, and should there fail to be an election in said town at the time specified for any cause whatever, the mayor of said town shall order an election held in said town by posting a notice in three public places. Said notice shall be posted ten days before said election. Said election shall be held under the law governing the election of members of the General Assembly, and only such qualified voters as reside within the corporate limits of said town shall be allowed to vote at said election. The managers of said election shall issue a certificate of election to the officers elected at said election, who shall take an oath to well and truly discharge the duties of the offices.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the sale of liquor within the incorporate limits of said town is hereby prohibited.

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the mayor and council of said town of Gay shall have power to make all ordinances, rules and regulations necessary to the proper management of the affairs of said town, and make all ordinances. rules and regulations necessary for the proper government of said Town, not inconsistent with the laws of this State; to preserve the good_order and health of said town.; to open and lay out such new streets in said town as the public interest may

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require; to widen and straighten or otherwise change the streets, lanes, alleys or sidewalks in said town; to lay off, open, close up. curb, pave, drain and bridge, when necessary, and keep in good order and repair the roads, streets, bridges, sidewalks. alleys. drains and gutters, and to remove all obstructions or nuisances from the same; to regulate and control all taverns and public houses; to establish markets, and regulate all butcher-pens, tan yards, livery-stables, blacksmith-shops, forges, stoves and chimneys in said town, and remove the same any of them, in case they should become dangerous or injurious to the health or property of any citizen Of said town, and to remove or abate any other thing that may he deemed to be a public nuisance and destructive to the health. peace and quiet of said town; to protect places of public worship; to regulate the keeping of gunpowder and other combustible: to provide cemeteries for the burial of the dead, and regulate interments therein: to make regulations for guarding against fire; to organize and equip fire company; to fix and establish fire limits, and from time to time to enlarge or restrict the same, and prescribe what kind and class of buildings shall not be constructed within said limits : to fill open wells or other excavations on unenclosed premises: and the said mayor and council shall also have entire and absolute control and jurisdiction of all soil-pipes, private drains, and sewers, water-closets and privy-vaults and dry wells in said town, with full power to prescribe their location, structure, uses and preservation, and to make such regulations concerning them in all particulars as may seem best for the preservation of the health, of the inhabitants of said town; and with power, also to require changes in, or the total discontinuance of any such contrivances and structures already in existence, or that may hereafter be allowed, and to compel the owner of property to convey the water from housetops by means of guttering, or otherwise, to sewerage pipes; provided, said sewage pipe are laid within fifteen feet of the buildings required to be guttered. Sec. 6. Be it further enacted, That said mayor may hold police courts, try offenders for

violation of the ordinances, rules, and regulations prescribed for the government of said town, and may punish violators of the same by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars, imprisonment not to exceed thirty days, and any one or more of these punishments may be ordered in the discretion of said mayor. And, when sitting as a court, said mayor may fine for contempt, not exceeding ten dollars, or imprisonment for five days, for such contempt for all decisions of said mayor imposing punishments or penalties for violations of such ordinances, rules and regulations, there may be an appeal to the mayor and council upon such terms as may be prescribed by said mayor and council.

Mayors Court

Municipal Officers

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted, That said mayor and council may appoint a clerk, treasurer and marshal, and prescribe their duties, not inconsistent with this Act and the laws of this State, and shall provide and take such bonds from said officers as may be necessary for the faithful performance of the duties of their offices, and fix their compensation. Said mayor and council are authorized to appoint a tax-assessor, or assessors, should more than one be required, to assess the taxable property of said town, and perform such other service as may be required in connection with said office, fix the compensation of such assessor and required bond for the faithful performance of his duties; *provided*, that nothing in this Act shall disqualify one person from holding the offices of clerk, treasurer and assessor at the same time.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, That said mayor and council shall have full power and authority to assess, levy and collect such taxes upon the real and personal property within the corporate limits of said town: *provided*, that the tax assessed shall not exceed the amount of the State tax: also to levy and collect such tax on business occupations, theatrical exhibitions or other performances exercised, performed or exhibited within the corporate limits of said town, and fix such license on circuses, menagerie shows,

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including all shows of domestic or wild animals. as may be deemed proper. Sec. 9. Be it further enacted, That should any property owners be dissatisfied with the assessment or valuation placed upon his or their property by the assessor, or assessors, provided for in the seventh section of this Act, he or they shall have the right to appeal from said assessment to the mayor and council; <i>provided</i> , said appeal shall be made within ten days after the returns of said assessor, or assessors, shall have been made to said mayor and council.	Appeals from tax assessments
Sec. 10 . Be it further enacted, That said mayor and council may choose from their own number a member pro tempore, who shall in the absence, sickness or disqualification of the mayor, and in the case of the absence, sickness or disqualification of the mayor pro tempore, a majority of the councilmen shall choose one of themselves to act as mayor temporarily.	Mayor pro tem.
Sec. 11. Be it further enacted, That the mayor and councilmen shall not receive any compensation for their services as such but shall be free from street duty during their term of office. Sec, 12. Be it further enacted, That said mayor and councilmen	Compensation of the mayor and councilmen
may require and compel the persons residing within the limits of said town, subject by law to road duty. to work on the streets and walks of said town not to exceed fifteen days in each year, but may receive in lieu thereof, to be expended upon said streets, a commutation tax from such persons. not to exceed five dollars.	Street work or commutation tax
Sec. 13. Be it further enacted. That said mayor and councilmen are hereby authorized and empowered to make all ordnances, rules and regulations that they may deem proper to enforce the duties, powers, rights and privileges herein contained.	General Powers
Sec. 14. Be it further enacted, That all the powers and duties contained in sections 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705 of the Code of 1895 volume 1, are hereby adopted and made a part of this Act. Sec. 15. Be it further enacted, That all laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act be, and the same are, hereby repealed. Approved August 22, 1907	Statutory powers