

AN ACT

to Incorporate the Town of Dallas

- Section 1. Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, that the citizens of the town of Dallas be, and they are hereby declared a body corporate, by the name and style of the corporation of the town of Dallas, and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, and may hold and dispose of property both real and personal.
- Section 2. That the limits of said corporation shall be as follows, beginning at the water's edge at the East bank of the Trinity River, opposite the center of the public square, thence South parallel with the streets of said town according to the town plot one quarter of a mile, thence East parallel with the streets one half a mile, and thence North parallel with the streets one half a mile, thence West parallel with the streets one half a mile, or to the Trinity River thence South along the meandering of said Trinity River one quarter of a mile to the place of beginning.
- Section 3. That an election for a Mayor and six Aldermen, a Treasurer, Recorder and Constable shall be held as soon as practicable after the passage of this Act, by the chief Justice of Dallas County, or two of the County Commissioners for said county according to the laws governing elections generally, and annually thereafter for a similar purpose; an election shall be conducted by the Mayor or a majority of the Aldermen acting at the time of such election, and the persons elected shall continue in office one year, or until their successors are duly qualified; and the annual election for Mayor, Aldermen, Treasurer, Recorder and Constable shall be held at such place in the town of Dallas as may be designated by the board for the convenience of the people.
- Section 4. That whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of Mayor, a majority of the Aldermen acting shall order and conduct an election to fill said vacancy, and the person elected shall hold his office until the next regular election, or until his successor is duly qualified, and in case of the death, resignation or removal of any of the Aldermen, Treasurer, Recorder or Constable, the Mayor shall order an election under such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the board to fill such vacancy.
- Section 5. That no person shall be eligible to the office of Mayor, Aldermen, Treasurer, Recorder, or Constable, unless such persons be a citizen of said town.
- Section 6: That the Mayor shall be President of the Board of Aldermen, and four of the members of said board shall constitute a quorum to transact business, and that said board shall enact such by-laws for the government of said town, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the state, as may be deemed proper, and may impose fines for the disobedience of the laws not exceeding twenty dollars for each offence.
- Section 7: That the Board of Aldermen shall have and exercise control over the public square and streets of said town, and may compel all free male citizens over the age of eighteen years and that of forty five, and

all male slaves between the ages of sixteen and sixty years shall be liable to work on the streets of said town at least five days in each and every year, and no more, provided that nothing in this Act shall be so construed as to release any person liable to work on roads from working five days on public roads outside of said corporation; for a failure or refusal to work as aforesaid when named so to do at least two days previous to the day of working, they shall be liable to the same penalties now prescribed by law for a failure to work on roads.

- Section 8. That the Board of Aldermen shall have power to levy a tax on all persons and property both real and personal in said town subject to taxation by the laws of the state, provided the tax on property in any one year shall not exceed one fourth of one percent ad valorem on such property, which tax shall be assessed and collected by the Constable of said town in the same manner as the state tax is collected.
- Section 9. That the Board of Aldermen shall have power to appoint such additional officers with the regulations of their duty and compensation as may be necessary and may require of them bond and security to the Mayor in such sum as may be deemed necessary to compel the efficient discharge of such duties as may be assigned them.
- Section 10. That all offences against the by-laws be presented before the Mayor, and shall be governed by the laws regulating Justice Courts, and the Constable shall execute and return all writs issued by the Mayor in the same manner as is provided by the law defining the duties of Constable.
- Section 11. That the Constable shall give bond and security as required by other Constables and shall have the same power, and shall be entitled to the same fees for similar service and shall pay over all moneys by him collected to the Treasurer taking his receipt for the same.
- Section 12. That the Mayor of said town shall be entitled to such fees as are allowed to Justices of the Peace for similar services.
- Section 13. That the Aldermen each be entitled to twelve dollars annually for their services as such, and the Recorder shall be allowed such sum as may be agreed upon by a majority of the Board of Aldermen, provided it shall not exceed twenty five dollars per annum.
- Section 14. That the Treasurer shall keep safely all money of said corporation, shall pay out the same upon the order of the board and shall do such other duty as may be assigned him by the by-laws; and he shall give bonds with security payable to the Mayor in such sum as may be deemed proper conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties, to be approved by the board, and shall be allowed such compensation as may be specified by the board, not to exceed two and one half percent for receiving, and two and one half percent for disbursing the funds.
- Section 15. That the Mayor be and he is hereby vested with all the power and jurisdiction of a Justice of the Peace, within the limits of said corporation, both civil and criminal.
- Section 16. That the books and records of the corporation shall at all times be open for the examination of any of the citizens of said town.

- Section 17. That the Aldermen shall have power to levy a poll tax not to exceed one dollar on every citizen of the corporation, which shall be collected as other taxes are collected, provided, that they shall be assessed and collected by the Constable acting for the corporation at the time.
- Section 18. That the Board of Aldermen shall have power to enact all such laws and ordinances that may be for the good of society and for the peace and happiness of the citizens of said corporation not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the State of Texas, provided, ten days residence , and being a free white male person over the age of twenty one years shall constitute a legal vote in said corporation.
- Section 19. That this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Speaker of the House of Representatives - H. D. Bell

President of the Senate - H. R. Runnels

Approved 2nd of February 1856 - E. M. Pease, Governor