

## Council Duties

The following information on council duties was provided by Katie. I did not capture it until now. She sent it very timely.

### Westlake City Charter

#### Article III. Section 3. Duties of Council

General Duties. All legislative powers of the Municipality, except as limited by this Charter, shall be vested in the Council, and in furtherance thereof it shall originate, introduce and pass ordinances and adopt resolutions; fix the salaries of all employees of the Municipality whether elected or appointed; require and fix bond for the faithful discharge of the duties of office by officers and employees; (the premium of any bond required by Council may be paid by the Municipality); adopt a budget; provide for an annual financial audit by the State; authorize the issuance of bonds under State law; and perform such other duties and exercise such other rights, not inconsistent with this Charter, as now or hereafter granted to the legislative authority of any municipality of Ohio.

I'm not sure I fully understand the parts about bonds...

In any case, simpler language might be something like:

#### **Powers and Functions of City Council:**

All legislative powers of the city, except as limited by this Charter, are to be vested in the Council, which shall enact ordinances and resolutions. In addition, Council will:

- Represent the interests of the city's residents
- Establish long- and short-term objectives and priorities
- Communicate priorities, policies, and programs to the city's residents
- Respond to residents' concerns
- Appoint and evaluate the City Manager
- Approve the budget
- Determine tax rates
- Perform such other duties and exercise such other rights, not inconsistent with this Charter, granted now or in the future to the legislative authority of any municipality of Ohio.

A couple of items here come from The National League of Cities, which notes the following list of functions (see <https://www.nlc.org/city-councils>), which is rather lengthy, but useful:

- Review and approve the annual budget;

- Establish long- and short-term objectives and priorities;
- Oversee performance of the local public employees;
- Oversee effectiveness of programs;
- Establish tax rates;
- Enter into legal contracts;
- Borrow funds;
- Pass ordinances and resolutions;
- Modify the city's charter;
- Regulate land use through zoning laws;
- Regulate business activity through licensing and regulations;
- Regulate public health and safety;
- Exercise the power of eminent domain;
- Communicate policies and programs to residents;
- Respond to constituent needs and complaints; and
- Represent the community to other levels of government.