

Form of government

The city shall be governed by a **council-manager** form of government.

The council-manager form is the system of local government that combines the strong political leadership of elected officials in the form of a council with the strong managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. This form establishes a representative system where all power is concentrated in the elected council and where the council hires a professionally trained manager to oversee the delivery of public services.

WHAT IS THE COUNCIL'S FUNCTION?

The council is the legislative body; its members are the community's decision makers. Power is centralized in the elected council, which approves the budget. The council also focuses on the community's goals, major projects, and such long-term considerations as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, capital financing, and strategic planning. The council hires a professional manager to carry out the administrative responsibilities and supervises the manager's performance.

Council:

The city council shall be composed of five (5) councilmen, consisting of one (1) councilman who shall be elected by all of the qualified voters of the city, and four (4) other councilmen who shall reside within four (4) separate residential wards and be elected by all of the qualified voters residing within each such ward in accordance with Act 404, S. 430, Regular Session 1953 (Acts of Alabama 1953, p. 472), as amended.

- Mayor (at large)
- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4

WHAT IS THE CITY MANAGER'S FUNCTION?

The manager is hired to serve the council and the community and to bring to the local government the benefits of training and experience in administering local government projects and programs on behalf of the governing body. The manager prepares a budget for the council's consideration; recruits, hires, and supervises the government's staff; serves as the council's chief adviser; and carries out the council's policies. Council members and citizens count on the manager to provide complete and objective information, pros and cons of alternatives, and long-term consequences.