715

TASMANIA.

THE LAUNCESTON CORPORATION ACT AMENDMENT ACT, 1921.

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TASMANIA.



1921.

ANNO DUODECIMO

GEORGII V. REGIS.

No. 20.

AN ACT to further amend "The Launceston 1921 Corporation Act, 1894." [2 December, 1921.]

W HEREAS it is expedient to further amend "The Launceston PREAMBLE. Corporation Act, 1894."

58 Vict. No. 30.

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows: -

1 This Act may be cited as "The Launceston Corporation Act, Short title. Amendment Act, 1921," and shall come into operation as to Parts I., II., III., and IV. immediately after the Thirty-first day of December, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-one, and as to the remaining part as soon as the Bill receives the Royal Assent.

2 In this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates—

Interpretation.

"The City" means the City of Launceston:

"The Council" means the Municipal Council of the City of

"The Principal Act" means "The Launceston Corporation Act, 1894."

A.D. 1921.

PART I. ALDERMEN.

Repeal, 58 Vict. No. 30, 9 Geo. V. No. 11.

3 Sections Twenty-six to Forty-five inclusive, and Schedule (5) of the Principal Act, as the same are now existing, amended, or re-enacted, are hereby repealed. Section Eleven of "The Launceston Corporation Act Amendment Act, 1918," is also hereby repealed.

Substitution of new Sections 26 to 45 of 58 Vict. No. 30, and Schedule (5). Returning Officer. 4 The following sections and Schedule (5) are hereby inserted in the Principal Act and shall hereafter be known as Sections Twenty-six to Forty-five:—

"26—(1) Every election of aldermen shall be held before a person

hereinafter called the Returning Officer.

- "(2) The Mayor shall be the Returning Officer unless he is one of the aldermen going out of office and a candidate for re-election in which case the Council shall appoint an alderman to be the Returning Officer.
- "(3) In any case in which the Mayor or the alderman appointed as aforesaid shall be at any time unable in consequence of absence, illness, death, or other incapacity, to perform the duties of Returning Officer at any such election it shall be lawful for the Town Clerk, and he is hereby authorised and empowered in any such case to perform such duties and to act as Returning Officer at any such election during the absence, illness, death, or other incapacity of the Mayor or such alderman as aforesaid.

Nomination of persons for election of aldermen.

- "27—(1) On or after the Fortieth day and before the Thirty-seventh day next before any election of aldermen, the Returning Officer shall give public notice of such election and the time for nomination by advertisment in some one or more newspapers generally circulating in the City.
- "(2) On and after the Thirty-seventh day and until the hour of Twelve o'clock at noon of the Thirtieth day next before any election of aldermen, any Two male citizens qualified to vote at such election may nominate to the Returning Officer for election any number of other male citizens qualified to be elected as aldermen not exceeding the number to be elected.
- "(3) Every such nomination shall be in writing in the form in the Schedule (3) stating the particulars therein mentioned and signed by the nominators and there shall be written at the foot of such nomination a statement in the form in the Schedule (3) signed by the citizen or citizens so nominated declaring the consent of such citizen or citizens to become a candidate at such election.
- "(4) No other citizens than such as are nominated and consent as aforesaid shall be eligible to be elected at such election.
- "(5) Provided that in the event of any citizen being absent from Tasmania at the time of his nomination for election as an alderman it shall be lawful for the Returning Officer to receive the nomination of such citizen without such written consent as aforesaid.
- "(6) The form in the Schedule (3) may be either printed or in writing or partly written and partly printed.

"28—(1) On the Twenty-nine days next before the election and on A.D. 1921. the day of the election there shall be published in some conspicuous place in the Town Hall or other building used as such by the Council, Notification of and on the Second day next before the election there shall be published nominations to be in a newspaper circulating in the City, a notification of the nominations.

"(2) Such notification shall be signed by the Returning Officer and shall contain the names and residences of all citizens so nominated as aforesaid.

"29 If at any election of aldermen no greater number of persons are Mode of proceednominated for election than the number of aldermen to be elected, the ing if no more Returning Officer shall upon the day of election, without any poll persons nominated being taken, sign and publish a notice declaring the persons so be elected. nominated to have been elected as aldermen, and the persons so declared to have been elected shall be aldermen of the City, and in such case it shall not be necessary to prepare a polling-list, appoint a pollingplace or polling-places, or take any other steps for the holding of a poll.

published.

"30-(1) Every person so nominated as aforesaid may appoint One Scrutineer. or more persons not exceeding Six to be scrutineers on his behalf at such election, of whom One only at a time shall be entitled to be present at each polling place, and to enter the room in which the ballot papers are received as hereinafter provided.

"(2) Every such scrutineer shall, before acting, make and subscribe in the presence of the Returning Officer or any Justice of the Peace a

declaration in the form in the Schedule (4).

"(3) Any scrutineer doing any Act in contravention of such declaration shall be guilty of a misdemeanour.

"31—(1) Every election of aldermen shall be held before the Returning Officer Returning Officer and such aldermen or other persons not being candreadidates as he may appoint to act as Assistant Returning Officers, and at each pollingthe Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer shall preside place. at each polling place.

"(2) Voting at such election shall commence at Nine o'clock in the Time for voting. forenoon, and shall finally close at Six o'clock in the afternoon of the same day unless adjourned by reason of riot or interruption as herein-

after provided.

"32 The Returning Officer, before and in time for every such election, Polling-lists shall cause to be prepared a list to be called the polling-list, and such polling-list shall:

- I. Contain the names of all citizens who are owners or occupiers of property in the city, and who are named in the Assessment Roll in force on the Thirtieth day before the day of holding the election:
- 11. Contain such names in alphabetical order of surnames, and shall have prefixed to every name in such list a number beginning such numbers at the first name on the said list with the number 1, and continuing them on in regular arithmetical series to the last name thereon: and

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III. Show the position of the property in respect of which each citizen is entitled to vote, the assessed annual value of such property, and the total number of votes to which the citizen is entitled—

and the Returning Officer shall cause a sufficient number of copies of such list to be printed for use at such election, and every citizen requiring a copy of such list shall be supplied with the same upon payment of a reasonable price for each copy.

Returning Officer

- "33 For the purpose of conducting every election of aldermen under to provide booths, this Act the Returning Officer shall-
 - 1. Appoint polling-places and cause such polling-places to be so divided and arranged as to the Returning Officer may seem best adapted for carrying out the provisions of this Act, and so that there shall be as many compartments as may be necessary at each polling place opening only into the room in which the ballot-boxes are kept, and supplied with pencils or other writing materials so that the persons voting shall be enabled to fill up their ballot-papers as hereinafter provided in perfect secrecy and with perfect security from interruption:

11. Cause to be furnished for the use of each polling place a sufficient number of copies of the polling-list certified under his hand to be correct copies:

III. Provide a sufficient number of ballot-boxes with secure locks and with apertures through which the ballot-papers are to be put into such ballot-boxes:

iv. Appoint such polling clerks as may be necessary: and

v. Give public notice of the situation of the polling places at least Two days before the day of the election.

Returning Officer рарегз.

- "34 The Returning Officer before and in time for every such election to provide ballot- shall provide such number of printed ballot-papers as he shall estimate to be required, and every such ballot-paper shall:-
 - 1. Contain the christian and surname of every person nominated for election printed in alphabetical order of surnames according to the form in the Schedule (5):
 - 11. Be marked with the number of votes to which the citizen to . whom it is issued is entitled and contain the other information indicated in the Schedule (5):
 - III. Be signed or stamped on the back thereof by the Returning Officer with his signature or his initials as he may think proper-

and no ballot-paper used at any such election shall contain any other matter, or thing, than those hereinbefore mentioned.

"In the event of more ballot-papers being required than the number provided as aforesaid, it shall be lawful to use ballot-papers in the form aforesaid, and marked as aforesaid, but type-written, or written by hand, instead of printed.

"35 The Returning Officer shall also provide as many papers contain- A.D. 1921. ing the printed declaration set forth in the Schedule (6) as he shall estimate to be required, and in the event of more being required than the number so printed, it shall be lawful to use declarations as set forth in the Schedule (6), but type-written or written by hand instead of printed.

Declarations to be provided.

"36 There shall be only One key to each lock of the ballot-boxes which the Returning Officer shall keep in his possession, and the ballot- Ballot-boxes to boxes shall be locked previously to the election by the Returning Officer and shall not be unlocked during the election nor until after the election as hereinafter provided.

be locked prior to

"37 Every such election shall be conducted in the manner following:

Mode of election of aldermen.

1. Each citizen claiming to vote at any polling-place shall state his christian name and surname, and if so desired by the poll clerk or the Returning Officer or an Assistant Returning Officer, any other reasonable particulars necessary for identifying such person, and if such person refuses to answer fully any question put to him or fails by his answer to satisfy the poll clerk, Returning Officer, or Assistant Returning Officer that he is entitled to vote, his claim to vote shall be rejected:

II. If such person satisfies the poll clerk, Returning Officer, or Assistant Returning Officer, that he is entitled to vote the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer, shall then select a ballot-paper marked with the number of votes to which the citizen claiming to vote is entitled and thereupon check or mark off upon a certified copy of the pollinglist such citizen's name as having voted, and deliver such

ballot-paper to such citizen:

III. Such citizen shall immediately take such ballot-paper to a compartment provided for such purpose as aforesaid and there, without delay, strike through the name or names of the person or persons for whom he does not intend to vote, but so that he leaves the same number of names (no more and no less) not struck out as the number of aldermen to be elected, otherwise such ballot-paper shall be invalid:

iv. When such citizen has struck through the name or names of the person or persons for whom he does not intend to vote, he shall fold up such ballot-paper and immediately

take and place the same in the ballot-box:

v. Immediately after such citizen has so placed his ballot-paper in the ballot-box he shall leave the room and shall not re-

enter it during the same election:

vi. No Two such persons shall remain at a compartment at the same time, nor shall a citizen take his ballot-paper out of the room in which the ballot-box is placed elsewhere than to the said compartment, and then only for the purpose of striking through the name or names of the person or persons for whom he does not intend to vote.

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"Any person wilfully contravening any of the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding One year with or without hard labour.

Declaration may be required.

"38- (1) The Returning Officer or any Assistant Returning Officer may, if he sees fit, require any citizen claiming to vote to sign a paper containing the declaration set forth in the Schedule (6), and in that case no ballot-paper shall be issued to such citizen until he or she shall have signed the said paper.

Right to vote.

"(2) No person claiming to vote at any such election shall be excluded from voting thereat except by reason of such person failing to satisfy the poll clerk, Returning Officer, or Assistant Returning Officer, in accordance with Section Thuty-seven, or refusing to make, as aforesaid, the aforesaid declaration. Such declaration, however, shall be required in 9 Geo. V. No. 11 all cases for the purpose of voting by post as provided by "The Launceston Corporation Act Amendment Act, 1918."

Inquiry.

"(3) No inquiry, except such as is provided for in Section Thirtyseven and except when a declaration is required such as relates to any one or more of the statements contained in the declaration, shall be permitted from any person claiming to vote who complies with Section Thirty-seven and, if required, duly makes, as aforesaid, such declaration.

False declaration. Perjury.

- "(4) Every person, wilfully making such declaration falsely, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act and shall for each and every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding Twenty Pounds.
- "(5) Every person shall be deemed and held to have made the said declaration wilfully upon proof that the said declaration was untrue in fact, unless he proves the contrary.

Blind men and marksmen.

"39 In the case of any citizen who is blind or cannot write, the declaration, if required, shall be read over to him and his verbal assent thereto being obtained the Returning Officer or some Assistant Returning Officer or poll clerk shall write such citizen's name in the citizen's signing place and attest the same under his hand, and such signature and attestation shall bind such citizen to such declaration and to all the consequences thereof if false and the Returning Officer or some Assistant Returning Officer shall also in the case of a blind citizen and in the case of a citizen who cannot write, if requested by such citizen so to do in the ballot-room, and, if the citizen so desires, in the presence of any scrutineer, poll clerk, or other person (not being a candidate) present and appointed by the citizen, strike through, upon such ballot-paper, the names of all persons so nominated except such as the citizen shall declare his intention of voting for.

Spoilt ballotpapers.

"40 If any citizen satisfies the Returning Officer or the Assistant Returning Officer at any polling-place at any election of aldermen before his ballot paper is placed in the ballot-box that he has spoilt it by mistake or accident the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer shall, if the citizen shall give up the spoilt ballot-paper, deliver to the citizen a new ballot-paper, and the Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer shall cancel and preserve the spoilt ballot-paper.

"41 Where the proceedings at any such election are interrupted or A.D. 1921. obstructed by any riot or open violence, the Returning Officer shall not for such cause finally close the poll, but shall adjourn the taking of the elections in case poll until the same time on the following day, and if necessary shall in proceedings are like manner further adjourn such poll until such interruption or interrupted by obstruction has ceased, when the Returning Officer shall again proceed riot. with the taking of the poll.

"42 On the close of the poll the Assistant Returning Officer at each Returning Officer polling-place shall bring the ballot-box or ballot-boxes from that pol- to declare result ling-place to the Town Hall, and as soon as all the ballot-boxes shall of election. have been brought to the Town Hall, the Returning Officer, and such One or more of the Assistant Returning Officers and poll clerks, as he may request so to do, shall at the Town Hall in the presence of such of the scrutineers as choose to attend, open the ballot-boxes, and proceed to count the votes given for each candidate, and shall at the Town Hall, and as soon as may be practicable, publish a notice over his signature declaring the number of votes given for each candidate, and the number of invalid ballot-papers and rejected votes, and declaring the name or names of the candidates, not exceeding the number required to fill the vacancies, who have received the greatest number of votes, to be duly elected at such election. In the event of the number of votes being found to be equal for any Two or more candidates, then and in every such case the Returning Officer shall, by his casting vote or Returning Officer votes decide which of such candidates shall be e'ected, and also if to have casting necessary the position of such candidates in relation to each other on the poll: Provided however that the Returning Officer shall not vote at See Sec. 89 of 58 any election, except in the case of an equality of votes as aforesaid.

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of alderman to be sealed up and deposited with

- "43 All ballot-papers taken at each election of aldermen, together Ballot-papers, &c., with the applications for postal ballot-papers, the wrappers, the small used at election envelopes containing the rejected votes, the spoilt ballot-papers, and the ballot-papers not used, the said copies of the polling list, and the notice declaring the candidates elected, shall be sealed up by the Returning Corporation Officer and deposited with the records of the Corporation, and the same records for One shall be kept for One year, and the sealed packets containing the same year. shall on the outside thereof be described to be the papers connected with the election to which they relate, and shall be endorsed by the Returning Officer, and in case any question arises touching the election, such papers or any of them upon production thereof, and proof either by evidence or by a certificate thereon under the hand of the Town Clerk that the same came to and then were in his custody as such Town Clerk, shall be received in evidence.
- "44 Every person, who shall vote more than once, or offer or attempt Polling twice, to vote more than once, at any election held under this Act, or who personation, &c, shall depart or attempt to depart from any polling-place after having received a ballot-paper without having deposited the same in the ballotbox as herein before mentioned, or who shall personate or attempt to personate any other person for the purpose of voting at such election, or who (not being entitled to vote) votes or offers to vote at such election,

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shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and shall on conviction thereof be liable to be imprisoned for any period not exceeding One year, with or without hard labour

Power of Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer.

"45—(1) The Returning Officer and every Assistant Returning Officer shall have power and authority—

1. To maintain and enforce order and keep the peace at each election of aldermen:

II. Without any other warrant than this Act to cause to be arrested, and taken before a Justice of the Peace, any person reasonably suspected of—

(a) Wilfully contravening any of the provisions of Section Thirty-seven;

(b) Wilfully making a false declaration as aforesaid;

(c) Offending against Section Forty-four;(d) Causing a disturbance at any election:

Ct. Sec. 53 of 58 Vict. No. 30, 111. Without any other warrant than this Act to cause any person to be removed who obstructs the approaches to any polling place, or conducts himself in a disorderly manner.

"(2) All constables and members of the police force are hereby required to aid and assist such Returning Officer or Assistant Returning Officer in the performance of his duty, and to arrest and take or remove such persons as aforesaid.

SCHEDULE (5).

CITY OF LAUNCESTON.

*Insert number of Election of *

Aldermen.

† 19

vacancies.
†Insert date of election.

t(Or whatever may be the number of votes.) ‡ ONE VOTE.

Abel, John Bolton, Stephen Clarke, Henry Dodds, Thomas

*Insert number of vacancies.

Strike through the names of those for whom you do not intend to vote. You must vote for * candidates, no more and no less."

Repeal of Section 53 of 58 Vict. No. 30.

5 Section Fifty-three of the Principal Act is hereby repealed.

PART II.

'EXTRAORDINARY VACANCIES.

Repeal of Section 70of 58 Vict. No. 30 and substitution of new section. 6 Section Seventy of the Principal Act is hereby repealed, and the following section is inserted in lieu thereof:—

"70 If any extraordinary vacancy occurs in the office of alderman, the Returning Officer shall, as soon as is conveniently possible by notice to be published in a newspaper circulating in the City, appoint a day, not less than Thirty-seven days and not more than Forty days after such publication, for the election of another qualified citizen to supply

such vacancy, and nominations shall be received on and after the A.D. 1921. I hirty-seventh day, and until the hour of Twelve o'clock at noon of the Thirtieth day next before the day appointed for such election, and such notice shall be the public notice of such election, and shall state the time for nominations.

"Provided always that so long as not more than Two vacancies occur Two months before an annual election—

- 1. If any extraordinary vacancy occurs through the death, resignation, removal, or disqualification of any alderman whose term of office would otherwise have expired within a period of Six months after the occurrence of such vacancy, no election shall take place to fill such vacancy until the usual election to fill such vacancy at the expiration of the period for which such alderman would otherwise have remained in office:
- II. If any extraordinary vacancy occurs through the death, resignation, removal, or disqualification of any alderman at any time not more than Six months nor less than Forty days before the annual election day in December, and such alderman's term of office would not have expired on such annual election day, the place of such alderman shall not be filled up until the First subsequent annual election of aldermen, and in that case the provisions with regard to filling of vacancies caused by a resigning alderman contained in Sections Eighty-nine and Ninety of this Act shall, mutatis mutandis, apply."

PART III.

RESIGNATION OF OFFICE.

7 Sections Eighty-seven and Eighty-eight and the proviso to Section Repeal of Sections Eighty-five (being the whole of the said section except the first Three 87, 88, and part lines thereof), and all the words following the word "abode" in the of 84 and 85. Fifth line of Section Eighty-four to the end of such section of the Principal Act are repealed.

58 Vict. No. 30.

8 The word "Mayor" occurring in the Third line of Section Ninety Amendment of of the Principal Act is hereby expunged, and the words "Returning Section 90 of 58 Vict. No. 30. Officer" are hereby inserted in lieu thereof.

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PART IV.

VOTING BY POST.

Amendment of Section 15 of 9 Geo. V. No. 11.

9 The words "Nineteen, Twenty, Twenty-one, and Twenty-two" occurring in the Fourth line of Paragraph (a) of Subsection (2) of Section Fifteen of "The Launceston Corporation Act Amendment Act, 1918," are hereby expunged, and the words "Seventeen, Eighteen, Nineteen, and Twenty" are hereby inserted in lieu thereof and shall be considered to have been so inserted from the commencement of that Act.

Amendment of Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 22, 23, and 24 of, and Schedule Form A to, 9 Geo. V. No. 11.

10 In Sections Eleven, Fifteen, Sixteen, Seventeen, Eighteen, Twenty-two, Twenty-three, and Twenty-four of, and in the Schedule Form A to, "The Launceston Corporation Act Amendment Act, 1918," the word "Mayor" is hereby expunged wherever the same occurs, and the words "Returning Officer" are hereby inserted in lieu thereof, and in the said Section Eleven of the same Act the word "Presiding" is hereby expunged wherever the same occurs, and the word "Returning" is hereby inserted in lieu thereof.

Amendment of Section 17 of 9 Geo. V. No. 11.

- 11 Subsection III. of Section Seventeen of "The Launceston Corporation Act Amendment Act, 1918," is hereby repealed, and the following subsection is hereby inserted in the said Section Seventeen in lieu thereof:—
 - "III. By marking his vote on the ballot-paper by striking through the name or names of the person or persons for whom he does not intend to vote, but so that he leaves the same number of names (no more and no less) not struck out as the number of aldermen to be elected, and so that in marking as aforesaid the authorised witness shall not see the vote."

Amendment of Section 21 of 9 Geo, V. No. 11

12 In Section Twenty-one of "The Launceston Corporation Act Amendment Act, 1918," the words "Section Forty" are hereby expunged, and the words and numerals "Subsections IV. and V. of Section Thirty-eight," are hereby inserted in lieu thereof.

PART V. MISCELLANEOUS.

Power to remit rates for the benefit of incapacitated soldiers and sol diers widows. 13 It shall be lawful for the Council to remit or excuse the payment of, or to refund the whole or any part or parts of, any rate or rates payable to the Corporation or to the Council for, or during, the years One thousand nine hundred and twenty one, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-two, and One thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, or any part or parts thereof in respect of any dwelling-house occupied by any soldier who served in the great war, and who may be then unfit as

a result of the war to earn his own living, or occupied by the widow A.D. 1921. of any soldier who served in the great war provided that it shall appear to the Council that—

- I. Such seldier in either case was a citizen of the City for a period of Twelve months at least prior to enlistment: and
- 11. Such soldier or such widow will obtain all benefit to be derived by reason of the Council remitting or excusing the payment of or refunding such rate or part or parts thereof.
- 14 Section Two hundred and thirty-four of the Principal Act is Repeal of Section hereby repealed, and the following section is hereby inserted in lieu 234 of 58 Vict. No. thereof:—

30, and substitution of new sec-

- "234 It shall be lawful for the Council to use upon any street or place within the City, locomotives or other engines or apparatus propelled by steam, petrol, electricity, or any other power, for the purpose of making, repairing, or rolling the streets of the City, provided that where reasonably possible, barriers shall be fixed and provided to prevent ingress or egress, or notices shall be posted giving warning of such locomotive, engine, or other apparatus, at the ends and intersections of streets during the time a street or place is being made, repaired, or rolled, as aforesaid."
- 15 The words "subject to the first of the foregoing rules and regu- Amendment of lations" occurring in the First and Second lines of Section Two Section 235 of hundred and thirty-five of the Principal Act are hereby expunged.

58 Vict. No. 30.

16 Section Forty-one of "The Launceston Corporation Act Amend- Repeal of Section ment Act, 1918," is hereby repealed, and the following section is inserted in lieu thereof:—

41 of 9 Geo. V. No. 11, and substitution of new section.

- "41 When any rates or any instalments of any rates, or any part thereof, payable in any year before the Thirtieth day of June, remain unpaid on the Thirtieth day of June or payable after the Thirtieth day of June and before the Thirty-first day of December remain unpaid on the Thirty-first day of December, there shall be added to the amount unpaid a sum equal to Five Pounds per centum per annum of the amount unpaid, and such sum, hereinafter referred to as 'interest,' shall be recoverable as if forming portion of and in the same manner as the said rates."
- 17 The Council may from time to time appoint and employ a City City Manager. Manager, who shall be a corporate officer, and shall perform all the duties of and exercise all the powers vested in the Town Clerk, and shall exercise such control over all or any of the departments and works of the Corporation as shall be committed to him by the Council, and the Council is hereby authorised to give such control to such City Manager as the Council shall think fit, and when, and so often as a City Manager is appointed, all references to the Town Clerk in "The Launceston Corporation Act, 1894," and all amendments thereof, and

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in all other Acts referring to the Corporation of the City of Launceston, or to the City of Launceston, shall be considered to be references to the City Manager.

Ambulances.

18 The Council may equip and supply ambulances for the removal of sick or infirm persons from house to house, or to or from any hospitals, or from the scene of any accident or elsewhere, and may employ drivers, grooms, mechanics, or such other persons as shall from time to time be deemed expedient, and the Council may make such charges for the use of such ambulances as the Council shall consider expedient. If the Council think fit such ambulances may be used outside the City.

And the Council may from time to time by order, published in the Gazette under the hand of the Mayor, make such rules and regulations for the proper ordering, conduct, management, cleansing, disinfecting, and use of such ambulances as to the Council shall seem requisite and desirable.