OFFICIAL.

BY AUTHORITY.

[No. 83.]

AN ACT

To incorporate the city of Jefferson.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, in General Assembly convened, That from and after the passage of this act, all that portion of Territory situated in the parish of Jefferson, on the left bank of the River Mississippi descending, and comprised within the upper line of the city of Lafayette, commencing at the Mississippi River, thence along said upper line of the city of Lafayette, and continuing in the direction of said upper line until it intersects Prytania street, or the continuation of said Prytania street, thence along said Pine street or its prolongation to the Canal of the New Orleans Canal and Banking Company, thence along the said Canal to the point of intersection with the upper line, or the prolongation of the upper line of Rickerville, and thence along said upper line of Rickerville to the River Mississippi, shall form a corporation and body politic, by the name of the "City of Jefferson", and as such shall have perpetual succession, and that the free white inhabitants thereof shall form a body corporate under the name of the "Mayor, Aldermen and Inhabitants of the city of Jefferson", a body that name, they and their successors shall be able in law and be capable to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended in any Court whatever, and to hold, purchase, receive, possess, enjoy and retain to them and their successors all estate, real or property, whatsoever: Provided the same be for municipal purposes, and the same to sell, transfer, alien and convey, and dispose of, and may have and use a common seal, and may alter and change the same at pleasure.

SEC. 2. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That there shall be elected by the qualified electors of said corporation the following officers, to wit: One Mayor, Nine Aldermen, One Treasurer, and One Recorder, who shall act as Clerk of the Council. One Harbor Master, One Commissary of Streets and Lands, Engineer, and One Collector of Taxes: Provided, that the Council of said corporation shall appoint a Surveyor, an Assessor, a Constable, and such other subordinate officers not herein enumerated, as said Council may deem necessary and provided, further, that all officers may be re-elected as often as the people of said corporation shall see fit, and until a election of another officer.

SEC. 3. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That said City shall be and the same is hereby divided into Five Districts and designated as the First District, Second District, Third District, Fourth District and Fifth District, which districts shall be respectively bounded and described as follows, to wit: The First District shall be comprised within the upper line of the city of Lafayette and the upper line of the plantation now owned by Madame Delachaise's heirs, and shall be entitled to three Aldermen.

The Second District shall be comprised within the lower line of the said plantation of Madame Delachaise and the centre of Napoleon Avenue, and shall be entitled to two Aldermen.

The Third District shall be comprised within the centre of Napoleon Avenue, and the lower line of the plantation of Mad. Bush, which is Avart and shall be entitled to three Aldermen.

The Fourth District shall be composed within the lower line of Mad. Bush's plantation of Madame Delachaise and the upper line of Hunlizvile, and shall be entitled to one Alderman.

The Fifth District shall be composed within the limits of the corporation, and including what is known as Bayou Delachaise's, and shall be entitled to three Aldermen.

SEC. 4. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That the election for officers to be specific shall take place on the last Monday in the month of May of each year, and there shall be an election held at the Court House in said corporation, or be fixed at such place in each or said Wards as the Council may designate, provided that said election shall be held on the same day.

SEC. 5. *Be it further enacted* &c., That in all municipal elections to said City every free white male, who has been a citizen of the United States, who shall have resided in the State two consecutive years, if preceding the election at which he offers to vote, and twelve months in the City, and the last six months thereof in the Ward in which he offers to vote, and who shall be over twenty one years of age, shall be entitled to vote. Provided, that no one shall lose his vote in the Ward in which he last resided, until he has acquired said right in another, and provided, further, that no person shall be elected by the people to any office, who is not a qualified voter of said corporation.

SEC. 6. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That there shall be elected by the qualified electors of said corporation the following officers, to wit: One Mayor, who shall act as Secretary of the Board of Aldermen, One Treasurer, and One Recorder, who shall act as Clerk of said Council. One Harbor Master, One Commissary of Streets and Lands, Engineer, and One Collector of Taxes: Provided, that the Council of said corporation shall appoint a Surveyor, an Assessor, a Constable, and such other subordinate officers not herein enumerated, as said Council may deem necessary and provided, further, that all officers may be re-elected as often as the people of said corporation shall see fit, and until a election of another officer.

SEC. 7. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That said Council shall have power to emancipate slaves belonging to citizens of said corporation, and the price of property emancipated shall be fixed by an appraisement to be made by the Police Jury of the parish of Jefferson.

SEC. 8. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That the said Council shall annually appoint three assessors to assess and value the property and slaves on which taxes shall be imposed in said corporation, which assessors shall subscribe to an oath, to faithfully perform and impartially discharge the duties of assessors. They shall make out an accurate and distinct assessment roll of the landed property, buildings thereon and other property in said city subject to taxation, which shall be returned to the Council on the same day as the Assessors of State Taxes, and shall be paid for their services out of the funds in the Treasury of said corporation.

SEC. 9. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That the said assessors shall commence their assessment on the (1st) second Monday of January of each year, and terminate his assessment on the first Monday in April following, and shall, so soon as terminated, deposit the assessment roll in the office of the Treasurer of said corporation, and shall cause to be inserted in one or more newspapers, published in New Orleans, three times during twenty days, a notice in the French and English languages, that the official journal of the corporation, as many times as said journal may be published, within said time, that said assessment roll has been deposited in the Treasurer's office, subject to the examination and inspection of all persons interested therein, and during the twenty days, any one who may consider himself injured thereby, shall have the right to file with said Treasurer his written opposition, stating the grounds of such opposition, and concluding with the prayer for such amendments as he may deem proper. That at the expiration of said twenty days, said assessment roll, if no opposition be filed, and the evidence which may be offered in support of the same; and if, in the opinion, any alterations ought to be made, make the same, and in acting as the facts in their judgment may authorize; and if any one who shall have made opposition, and whose opposition may have been rejected—his opposition in whole or in part, shall have the right, within five days after said rejection, and said assessment roll so corrected, to transfer said opposition to the District Court, with a whole jurisdiction said opposition may be entitled, which said opposition shall be tried in a summary manner and without preference, without a jury. Provided, that in case no opposition has been filed within the specified time, said assessors, or a majority of them, shall make a written declaration at the foot of said assessment roll, that the same is finally closed, so far as not opposed; and thereafter, in any suit for the collection of taxes due said corporation, said assessment roll shall be taken and received as conclusive proof.

SEC. 10. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That in order to equalize the burdens of taxation, and to prevent unjust discrimination in the valuation of property, the Council shall have the right to increase the valuation of said assessment roll, if they deem it necessary, by not exceeding one fourth per cent. on the valuation of the property assessed, and may add thereto such per centage as they may deem necessary to cover the expenses of the taxes thus assessed, which the said interest, to be paid by preference, before any mortgages or claim whatever on said property, and shall exist thereon without being recorded, for and during the period of three years from the final closing of said assessment roll: Provided, that whenever said taxes shall be due by any person or persons who do not reside in the parish of Jefferson, or when the owners of property are unknown, the said corporation may proceed by an action in rem, against said property, before any court of competent jurisdiction, or the purpose of enforcing the privilege thereon, and of causing said property to be seized and sold for the payment of taxes due on the same, which proceeding is to be, shall, in all cases, be conducted in the manner now pro ded by Articles Two Hundred and Ninty, Two Hundred and Ninty-One, Two Hundred and Ninty Two, Two Hundred and Ninty Three Two Hundred and Ninty-Four and Two Hundred and Ninty-Five of the Code of Practice of this State.

SEC. 11. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That whenever the owner of any property in front of which improvements of any description whatever, sidewalks, banquettes or other walks, shall be done within the limits of said corporation, by order of said Council, or whenever the owner or any property which has been filled up with earth, or enclosed, or fence d in, by order of said Council, shall fail to pay the proportion of amount due for which said property may be liable, the said corporation shall have a special lien and privilege in said property to secure the payment of the amount or debt, by eight per cent. per annum interest from the day when the same ought to have been paid, to be paid by preference over any mortgage or claim whatever on said property: Provided, That such privilege shall not extend beyond the period of four months from the completion of said work, and shall be lost by the neglect of the proper officer of the said corporation, has been recorded in the office of the Recorder of Mortgages of the parish of Jefferson: Provided further, That in case such owner shall be unknown, or resides out of the parish of Jefferson, the Comptroller shall cause a notice, in the French and English languages, in the official journal of the corporation, and in one newspaper of the city of New Orleans, to be published for the space of eight successive days, that unless payment for said work is made within thirty days from the date of the first insertion of such notice, notifying such owner, the Treasurer, that the said property will be proceeded against in the same manner as is prescribed in the foregoing section for the recovery of taxes due said corporation by unknown owners.

SEC. 12. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That the said Council shall have the right to cause to be removed or abated, all nuisances, and shall have the power to ordain and establish any and all police regulations for the preservation of the health of the citizens and property thereof, and for the well ordering the affairs of said corporation, or preventing the stoppage or obstruction of streets, levees or public places and roads in said corporation, and shall have power to repair, alter and enlarge the levee in front of said corporation, or for the safety of the inhabitants, to make a new levee in front of any part or portion of said city, in accordance with the laws in such cases provided.

SEC. 13. *Be it further enacted*, &c., That whenever the Mayor and County of the said corporation shall be desirous of either opening or closing any number of the inhabitants thereof or otherwise, to open any lane, widen, extend, or improve any street or public place, or to close or obstruct any street, lane or public place, or to open any new street, lane or public place, or to