

The Republic of Serbia  
The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina  
The City of Sombor  
**THE CITY ASSEMBLY**  
Reference: 06-81/2008-VII  
Date: 23 July 2008  
S o m b o r

Pursuant to Article 191 of the Constitution of the Republic of Serbia ('Official Gazette RS' Number 98/2006), Article 20 of the Law on Territorial Organization of the Republic of Serbia ('Official Gazette RS' Number 129/2007), Article 11 and Article 32 paragraph 1, pertaining to the Article 66 paragraph 3 of the Law on Local Self-government ('Official Gazette of The Republic of Serbia' Number 129/2007), The Assembly of the City of Sombor, at a session held on 30 July 2008, passed the following

**S T A T U T E**  
**of**  
**THE CITY OF SOMBOR**

**I. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Article 1**

The City of Sombor (hereinafter referred to as: The City) is a unit of local self-government where the right of citizens to local self-government is exercised directly or through representatives freely elected to the Assembly of the City of Sombor (hereinafter referred to as: City Assembly) by managing affairs of direct, common and general interest.

Inhabitants who have voting rights and resident status in the territory of the City manage local self-government activities in accordance with the Constitution, law and the Statute of the City of Sombor (hereinafter referred to as: Statute).

**Article 2**

The City territory, stipulated by the law, comprises settlements, i.e. areas of cadastral municipalities which constitute it: Aleksa Santic, Backi Breg, Monostor, Bezdan, Gakovo, Doroslovo, Kljajicevo, Kolut, Rastina, Ridjica, Svetozar Miletic, Sombor, Stanisic, Stapar, Telecka, Conoplja and suburban settlements Bilic, Bukovac, Gradina, Zarkovac, Kozara, Lenija, Lugovo, Milcic, Nenadic, Obzir, Radojevici, Rancevo, Centrala, Cicovi, Sikara, Saponje and rural households.

**Article 3**

The City has legal entity status.

The seat of the City is located in the settlement of Sombor, with the centre of the city administration located at the address: 25000 Sombor, Trg Cara Urosa, number 1.

A Mayor acts for and on behalf of the City of Sombor.

**Article 4**

The City and its bodies shall have a seal.

The seal shall be circular in form, with 60 mm in diameter, bearing the coat of arms of the Republic of Serbia and, around it, the text: The Republic of Serbia, The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, The City of Sombor, name of the body, written in Serbian language in Cyrillic and Latin script, as well as in Hungarian language and alphabet.

Types and procedures for use of seals shall be stipulated by a special act.

#### **Article 5**

The official City holiday is 17 February – the date when Sombor, by the act of signing the Charter of Privileges in 1749, gained the free royal city status.

Other days relevant for the City which shall be celebrated, shall be determined by a special decree of the City Assembly.

Settlements, suburban settlements and local communities may establish their holidays, in accordance with the Constitution, law and the Statute.

#### **Article 6**

The City shall establish awards and other public recognitions to organisations and citizens for outstanding accomplishments in science, art, economy and other fields.

The City shall award the title of the honorary citizen of the City.

Types of awards and other public recognitions, terms and conditions of their assignment, as well as terms and conditions of awarding the honorary citizen title shall be stipulated by a special decree passed by the City Assembly.

#### **Article 7**

Serbian language and Cyrillic script shall be in official use in the City.

Latin script and Hungarian language and alphabet shall also be in official use in the city as stipulated by the Constitution, law and other regulation and the City Statute.

Croatian language and alphabet shall also be in official use in the settlements of Backi Monostor and Backi Breg.

#### **Article 8**

In order to satisfy general, common and everyday needs of citizens, local communities shall be established in the settlements.

#### **Article 9**

Citizens participate in realisation of City activities by means of civic initiative, citizens' meeting, referendum and through their representatives in the City Assembly, as stipulated by the Constitution, law and the Statute.

#### **Article 10**

The City shall have its symbols.

City symbols are a coat of arms and a flag.

The official symbol of the City shall be the historical coat of arms with shape and content as described in the Article 18 of the Charter of Privileges to the Free and Royal City of Sombor from 1794:

‘In the green field of the shield there lies a city in silver colour, with three towers, with the one in the middle being taller; the walls are adorned with windows suitable for defence and with a toothed entablature in the frontal area; a red arm sticking out of the upper right window is holding a sabre directed towards a golden coloured octagonal star; hanging out of the left window there is a blue flag with a gilded number 3 in between two connected laurel branches; in front of the open city gates made from iron bars, there stand two soldiers: the right one

wearing a felt suit, a black pandour fur hat on his head, and black boots, holding a heavy old-fashioned rifle (bombard); the right one, wearing a blue blouse, red trousers, golden boots and with a red Hungarian cap on his head, holding an unsheathed sabre pointed obliquely upward. There is a tournament shield with a visor, and above it a crown behind which there is a lion, in original colour, in standing position with his tongue hanging out and his tail raised upward; and in his claws he is holding a flag and an unsheathed sabre. On both sides, there are, in silver and red colour, oak leaf ornaments.'

The city of Sombor has a flag that looks as follows:

On a silver-white background, there is the City of Sombor coat of arms encircled with a frame inside of which the following text is written in Latin: '*Sigillum Regia Liberaque Civitatis Zomboriensis 1749*'. The flag has a height-to-length ratio of 2:3. Centred in the middle of the flag, there is the City's coat of arms, diameter and size of which constitutes 45% of the total length of the flag. The coat of arms is laid out horizontally on the flag. For cases when the flag needs to be hoisted vertically, the coat of arms can be laid out vertically.

### **Article 11**

The City shall independently decide upon affairs within its jurisdiction, in accordance with its rights and responsibilities stipulated by the Constitution, law, other regulation and the Statute.

### **Article 12**

Activities of city bodies shall be public.

The publicity and providing information to the citizens shall be ensured by:

- 1) public discussions about proposals of statute, budget, decrees stipulating tax rates for collecting own-source revenues and other acts decided upon by city bodies;
- 2) publishing statute, decrees and other City acts in the 'Official Gazette of The City of Sombor' and presenting them on the City's official website, in the official languages of the City;
- 3) by means of public communication, posting decrees and other acts in the usual way (notice boards etc.)
- 4) by the right of citizens to gain access to certain information, records, reports on bodies' activities etc;
- 5) other cases stipulated by the Statute and other acts of the city bodies.

### **Article 13**

Financing of the City as well as conditions under which the City may enter financial obligations, shall be stipulated by the law, this Statute and decrees of the City Assembly.

The City shall have its assets managed by the city bodies, in accordance with the law, this Statute and decrees of the City Assembly.

## **II CITY JURISDICTIONS**

### **Article 14**

The City shall, through its bodies, in accordance with the Constitution and law, perform the following activities:

- 1) adopt development programmes;
- 2) adopt spatial plan and urban plans;
- 3) adopt budget and annual statement of accounts;

4) set rates for the City's own source revenues, as well as the terms and criteria for determination of local taxes and fees;

5) regulate and provide for performing and development of public utility operations (purification and distribution of water, atmospheric and waste water purification and disposal, production and distribution of steam and hot water, city and suburban passenger road transport, maintaining cleanliness in the city and in settlements, waste depots maintenance, regulation, maintenance and utilization of markets, parks, green, recreation and other public areas, public parking lots, public lightning, regulation and maintenance of graveyards and burials etc.), as well as provide organizational, material and other conditions for such operations;

6) ensure maintenance and security of apartment buildings and set fees for apartment buildings maintenance;

7) execute procedure for removal of persons illegally moved into apartments and common premises in the apartment buildings;

8) adopt land development programmes, regulates and provides conditions for maintenance and utilization of land and set fees for land development;

9) adopt programmes and implement local economic development projects and ensure improvement of general economic conditions in the City;

10) regulate and provide conditions for utilization of business premises under its management

11) ensure environmental protection, adopt programmes for utilization and protection of natural values and environment protection programmes, i.e. local action and reclamation plans, in accordance with strategic documents and own interests and specific needs and set special fee for environmental protection and improvement;

12) regulate and provide conditions for activities pertaining to construction, rehabilitation and reconstruction, maintenance, protection, utilization, development and management of local and non categorized roads, as well as streets in the settlements;

13) regulate and provide special conditions and organization of taxi transportation;

14) regulate and provide organization of line navigation for transport on the City territory, and specify parts of coast and water area where hydro constructions may be built and where sailing vessels may be placed;

15) establish commodity reserves and specify their volume and structure, with consent of authorized ministry, in order to satisfy the needs of local population;

16) establish public enterprises for performing public utility service in its territory;

17) establish institutions and organisations in the field of primary education, culture, basic health protection, recreation, sports, child protection and tourism for members of all national communities, supervise and ensure their smooth functioning;

18) establish institutions in the field of social security, supervise and ensure their smooth functioning, issue work permits for social security institutions established by other legal and private entities, determine fulfilment of conditions for performing social security services; issue norms and standards for activities of institutions founded by it, enact regulations on social security rights and act as national tutor;

19) organise realisation of activities pertaining to protection of cultural resources of significance to the City and national communities whose members live on the City territory, stimulate development of culture and creative work of members of all national communities on the City territory, provide resources for financing and co-financing programmes and projects in the field of culture relevant for the City and national communities whose members live on the City territory and create conditions for functioning of museums and libraries and other cultural institutions established by it;

- 20) organise protection from elementary and other major catastrophes and fire protection and create conditions for their removal, i.e. for diminishing their consequences;
- 21) set grounds for protection, utilisation and maintenance of agricultural land and ensures their implementation, locate erosion areas, take care of pasture utilisation and decide on transformation of pastures for a different cultivation;
- 22) regulate and determine utilisation and management of resources, public wells and fountains, specify waterpower engineering conditions, issue water works approvals and permits for objects of local significance;
- 23) provide conditions for preservation, utilisation and improvement of areas with natural healing properties;
- 24) stimulate and ensure tourism development on its territory and set residence tax;
- 25) ensure development and improvement of hotel and restaurant management, crafts and trade, regulate working hours, specify places where specific business operations may be performed and set other conditions for the operations;
- 26) manage City property and use nationally owned assets and ensure their preservation and enhancement;
- 27) regulate and organise activities pertaining to keeping and protection of domestic and exotic animals;
- 28) organise activities pertaining to legal protection of its rights and interests;
- 29) establish bodies, organisations and departments for city needs and regulate their organisation and operations;
- 30) assist development of various forms of self-help and solidarity with people with special needs as well as for people in essentially unequal position and stimulate activities and provide help for organisations of people with disabilities and other social and humanitarian organisations on its territory;
- 31) stimulate and aid development of cooperativeness;
- 32) organise legal aid service;
- 33) ensure realisation, protection and improvement of human rights and individual and collective rights of members of national minorities and ethnic groups;
- 34) recognise languages and alphabets of national minorities as official in the City territory and ensure their equal use in the proceedings before the city bodies, public enterprises, institutions and organisations and services founded by the City; ensure that names of public companies and institutions, settlements, rivers, lakes and other geographical names, names of streets and squares, names of the City bodies and traffic and tourism signs, notification and warnings for the public as well as other public writings are written in the language and with the alphabet of the national minority which is officially recognised in the City, in accordance with its tradition;
- 35) ensure publicity of information of local significance and create conditions for providing public information in Serbian as well as in national minority languages used on the City territory, establish television and radio stations to enable providing information in a national minority language which is official in the City, as well as to enable reporting in a national minority language which is not official, when such reporting corresponds to the achieved level of minority rights;
- 36) regulate violations that transgress municipal legislation;
- 37) establish inspection services and perform surveillance inspection of compliance with the regulations and other general acts within the municipal jurisdiction in practice;
- 38) regulate organisation and operations of peace councils;
- 39) regulate and enable use of the name, coat of arms and other City symbols;
- 40) perform other duties of direct interest to citizens, as stipulated by the Constitution, law and this Statute.

Apart from the above listed activities stipulated by the Law, the City shall conduct other activities of direct interest to citizens, as follows:

- 1) specify, collect and control own source revenues, in accordance with the law;
- 2) establish awards and other public recognitions to organisations and citizens for outstanding accomplishments in the field of science, culture, art, economy and other fields.
- 3) cooperate with non-governmental organisations, humanitarian and other organisations when that is in citizens' best interest;
- 4) cooperate with foreign municipalities and cities, in accordance with the Constitution and Law
- 5) determine measures and take care of outer appearance of apartment buildings and business blocks, public surfaces and utility buildings and all other objects and surfaces relevant for the appearance of the City and settlements;
- 6) establish a Communal Police force, in accordance with the Law;
- 7) regulate and create conditions for youth care, adopt and implement strategy and action plan for youth politics and create conditions for youth organizing;
- 8) enable peaceful settlement of citizens' disputes – by mediating.

#### **Article 15**

The City shall furthermore perform other activities delegated to it by law and other regulations by the Republic of Serbia and Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

The City shall perform, as delegated, certain surveillance inspection activities in the field of education, health care, environmental protection, trade in goods and services, agriculture, waterpower engineering and forestry as well as other inspection activities as stipulated by law.

#### **Article 16**

For realisation of its rights and responsibilities to satisfy the needs of its population, the City shall establish enterprises, institutions and other organizations to perform public service.

In performing activities within its jurisdiction, the city may delegate certain activities to another enterprise, local community, institution, entrepreneur or another organization that performs public service.

Delegating activities pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article shall be done by a City Assembly decree, i.e. a contract, as proposed by the City Board.

Enterprises, institutions and other organisations performing public service shall submit a business report to the City Assembly at least once a year.

#### **Article 17**

Affairs pertaining to legal protection of property rights and interests of the city shall be performed by the Sombor City Office of Public Defender.

Scope of work and procedures for the Sombor City Office of Public Defender shall be stipulated by a special decree.

### **III CITY FINANCES**

#### **Article 18**

For performing activities within the City jurisdiction as stipulated by the law and this Statute, the City shall obtain the right to own-source revenues, shared revenues, grants, revenues by incurring debts and other revenues as stipulated by the law.

Furthermore, the City shall obtain the right to resources for affairs falling under the rights and responsibilities of the Republic of Serbia and Autonomous Province of Vojvodina delegated to it, dependant on the level from which such affairs are transferred.

#### **Article 19**

In order to satisfy citizens' needs in the City or its part funds may be collected by means of voluntary tax in accordance with the procedure for direct expression of public opinion as stipulated by the law.

The decree on implementing voluntary taxes, as own-source revenue of the City, shall be enacted by citizens by means of anonymous voting or by a written statement, in accordance with the law.

The form and procedure for direct expression of public opinion shall be decided upon by the City Assembly.

#### **Article 20**

The city shall independently manage the revenues belonging to it.

Public expenditures, funding for which is provided in the budget, may be financed directly from the budget, through budget funds and special accounts as stipulated by the law.

#### **Article 21**

The City may establish funds for financing activities relevant for the City, as stipulated by the law.

#### **Article 22**

The City may incur debt, as stipulated by the law.

#### **Article 23**

The City shall adopt a budget for one calendar year listing all its revenues and expenditures, in accordance with the law.

Funds transferred from the budgets of the Republic of Serbia and Autonomous Province of Vojvodina for financing delegated activities shall be separately shown in the budget.

#### **Article 24**

At the expiration of the year for which a budget was approved, an annual statement of accounts shall be drawn up showing realisation of the budget.

#### **Article 25**

Budget and annual statement of accounts shall be made available to the public.

#### **Article 26**

The City budget beneficiaries shall submit reports on their operations, execution of programmes and utilisation of city budget funds on request by the City bodies and at least once a year.

#### **Article 27**

The City, through its bodies, shall approve general acts and programmes of public enterprises and institutions founded by it, whose operations are financed from the City budget.

## **IV CITY BODIES**

### **Article 28**

The City bodies are: City Assembly, Mayor, City Board and City Administration.

### **Article 29**

The City affairs shall be conducted by city bodies within their jurisdiction as stipulated by the law and this Statute.

In the absence of legal regulation or other legislation stipulating the body authorised for conducting affairs within the City jurisdiction, all affairs pertaining to organisation of relations within the City jurisdiction shall be conducted by the City Assembly, while the affairs which are executive by nature shall be conducted by the Mayor and City Board.

Should the nature of affairs be such that the jurisdiction can not be determined pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article, the jurisdiction lies with the City Assembly.

## **1. CITY ASSEMBLY**

### **Article 30**

The City Assembly (hereinafter referred to as: Assembly) is the highest governing body of the City consisting of aldermen elected by the citizens by direct electoral system, via anonymous voting, for a period of four years, in accordance with the Constitution, law and the Statute.

The Assembly shall consist of 61 aldermen.

### **Article 31**

An alderman shall not be an employee in the City Administration nor an individual appointed by the Assembly.

Should an individual employed in the City Administration get elected for the Assembly, their employee rights and responsibilities shall be held in abeyance during their assembly mandate.

On the date of confirmation of assembly mandate, individuals appointed by the Assembly no longer act in the positions they were appointed to.

### **Article 32**

After confirmation of their assembly mandate, an alderman shall sign the following oath: 'I solemnly swear that I will obey the Constitution, law and the Statute and that I will honourably and impartially perform alderman duties, guided by interests of citizens.'

The Assembly may decide that, apart from the oath, aldermen should sign the Ethical Code of Conduct for Local Officials in Serbia.

### **Article 33**

An alderman shall have the right to mandate protection, including judicial protection which shall be realised in accordance with the election law.

### **Article 34**

An alderman shall not bear criminal responsibility, be incarcerated nor penalised for voicing their opinion or for voting at sessions of the City Assembly and working bodies.

### **Article 35**

An alderman shall have the right and responsibility to: participate in activities of the Assembly and its working bodies; perform assigned duties; propose specific matters for discussions to the Assembly; submit proposals for enactment of decrees and other acts; propose amendments to draft decrees; and participate in other activities of the Assembly.

### **Article 36**

An alderman shall have the right to a fixed monthly income, compensation for participation in activities of the Assembly, its working bodies and groups of aldermen, reimbursement of travel expenses and other fees as stipulated by a special decree.

### **Article 37**

The Assembly shall be considered constituted when the Assembly President is elected and the Secretary of the Assembly appointed.

### **Article 38**

In accordance with the law, the Municipal Assembly, shall:

- 1) adopt a City Statute and Rules of Procedure for the Assembly;
- 2) adopt budget and annual statement of accounts;
- 3) set rates for the City's own source revenues, as well as the terms and criteria for determination of local taxes and fees;
- 4) adopt programmes of development for the City and certain business activities;
- 5) adopt urban plan and regulate utilisation of land;
- 6) issue regulations and other general acts;
- 7) call for a city referendum and referendum for a part of the City territory, give opinions on proposals contained in civic initiative and pass preliminary decrees on voluntary tax;
- 8) establish departments, public enterprises, institutions and organisations, stipulated in the City Statute and supervises their activities;
- 9) appoint and dismiss executive and supervisory board, appoint, after an open competition to fill the positions, and dismiss directors of public enterprises, institutions, organisations and services founded by it, and approve their statutes, in accordance with the law;
- 10) appoint and dismiss the President of the Assembly, Deputy President and Vice President of the Assembly;
- 11) appoint and dismiss the Secretary of the Assembly;
- 12) appoint and dismiss the Mayor and, following a proposal by the Mayor, elects Deputy Mayor and members of the City Board;
- 13) set municipal taxes and other local revenues the City is entitled to by the law;
- 14) set fees for land development and utilisation;
- 15) pass an act on taking up public loans by the City; in accordance with the law stipulating the public debt;
- 16) regulate working hours of restaurants, trade and craft facilities;
- 17) express opinion about national, provincial and regional spatial plan;
- 18) express opinion about laws which regulate issues of interest to local self-government;
- 19) approve use of the name, coat of arms and other City symbols.

Apart from the above activities, the Assembly shall furthermore perform activities stipulated by the Statute, as follows:

- 1) approve budget beneficiaries' business plans;

2) pass a decree on cooperation and association of the City and its bodies and departments, as well as enterprises, institutions and other organisations founded by it, with other units of local self-government, their bodies and departments in the country and abroad, as well as with international associations of local government, in accordance with the Constitution and law;

3) adopt annual plan for obtaining real estate needed by the City bodies, and initiates the procedure for selling real estate before relevant authorities in accordance with the law;

4) perform other activities as stipulated by the law and Statute.

### **Article 39**

The Assembly shall make rulings at a session only if majority of aldermen are present.

The rulings shall be made by a majority of votes of present aldermen, unless otherwise stipulated by the law or this Statute.

The Assembly shall, by a majority of votes of the total number of aldermen, decide upon:

1) passing the Statute and budget;

2) programmes of development for the City and certain business activities;

3) City spatial and urban plans;

4) initiative for alteration of the City territory, in accordance with the law;

5) establishment of city municipalities;

6) decree to form a cooperation with a foreign city;

7) enactment of decrees on organization of the City Administration;

8) establishment and abolition of a local community;

9) call for referendum;

10) decide on the City's public debt;

11) street names, names of squares, city quarters and parts of settlements;

12) as well as on other issues as stipulated by the law and the Statute.

### **Article 40**

The Assembly shall have a President and a Deputy President who shall be elected and dismissed in accordance with the law.

A candidate for the President shall be proposed by not less than one third of aldermen.

The Assembly President shall be the candidate elected by a majority of votes of the total number of aldermen.

Should more than one candidate be proposed with none of them receiving the necessary majority, voting for candidates shall be repeated at the same sessions.

Should the President of the Assembly not be elected in the second round as well, the election procedure shall be repeated.

### **Article 41**

The Assembly shall have a Secretary dealing with expert activities pertaining to convening and holding sessions of the Assembly and its working bodies and managing administration related to their activities.

The Secretary of the Assembly shall be appointed for a period of four years, on recommendation by the President of the Assembly, and may be reappointed.

The Secretary of the Assembly shall be an individual with a law degree, passed professional exam for working in government bodies and minimum three years of work experience.

The Assembly may, following a proposal by the President of the Assembly, dismiss a Secretary before the end of their mandate.

The Secretary may have a deputy who would replace them in the event of their absence.

The Deputy Secretary of the Assembly shall be appointed and dismissed in the same way and under the same conditions that apply to the Secretary.

#### **Article 42**

The President of the Assembly shall organise activities of the Assembly, convoke and preside over its sessions, ensure realisation of publicity requirements, sign acts and regulations enacted by the Assembly, cooperate with the executive bodies and perform duties as assigned by the Assembly.

#### **Article 43**

Sessions of the Assembly shall be convoked by the President of the Assembly, when needed, and at least once every three months.

The President of the Assembly shall convoke a session when requested by the Mayor, Municipal Board or one third of the aldermen, within seven days from the date of the request, in such a way that the date of the session shall be not later than 15 days after the request has been made

Should the President of the Assembly fail to convoke the session within the deadline pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article, the session may be convoked by the requester and shall then be presided over by an alderman assigned by the requester.

The President of the Assembly may postpone a session that they convoked only if there is no quorum present while in other cases postponing can only be decided on by the Municipal Assembly.

#### **Article 44**

Sessions of the Municipal Assembly are public.

The Municipal Assembly may decide that a session of the Assembly shall not be public for security and other reasons stipulated by law.

#### **Article 45**

The Assembly shall establish not less than 10 permanent working bodies for resolving issues within its jurisdiction.

The Assembly may establish temporary working bodies for resolving issues within its jurisdiction that arise during the work of the Assembly, and which are not within jurisdiction of a permanent working body.

Members of the permanent working bodies, apart from aldermen, shall include a certain number of citizens and their number can not be bigger than the number of aldermen in the working body.

The president of a working body shall be one of the aldermen.

Members of permanent working bodies are appointed for a period of four years with the option to be dismissed before expiration of that period.

Presidents and members of permanent working bodies shall be elected and dismissed by the Assembly following a proposal of aldermen groups in the Assembly.

President of permanent working body shall organise its operations, convoke and preside over sessions of the working body, formulate conclusions and report about it to the President and Secretary of the Assembly.

Members of working bodies participate in their work, give opinions and make proposals in relation to issues on the agenda.

Act of temporary working body establishment shall define their name, field of work for which they are being established, duties of the working bodies, number of members of the working bodies as well as other matters of significance to operations of the working body.

#### **Article 46**

The Assembly shall have Rules of Procedure stipulating preparation, activities and presiding over sessions of the Assembly, its working bodies as well as other matters of significance to its work.

#### **Article 47**

The Assembly shall also establish independent working bodies: Council for Interethnic Relations, Youth Council and Commission for Gender Equality.

Conditions of work and professional, administrative and technical assistance to the working bodies shall be provided by the City Administration.

### ***Council for Interethnic Relations***

#### **Article 48**

A Council for Interethnic Relations (hereinafter referred to as: Council), as an independent working body comprising representatives of the Serbian nation and national minorities, shall be established in accordance with the law.

The Council shall deal with issues of achieving, protection and enhancement of national equality in the City, and especially in the field of culture, education, publicity and official use of language and script; participate in adopting city plans and programmes of significance for achieving national equality and propose measures for attaining national equality; propose sources, volume and purpose of budget funds for achieving national equality.

The Council shall promote mutual understanding and good relations among all communities residing in the City.

#### **Article 49**

The Assembly shall elect members of the Council among eminent members of the Serbian community and national minorities.

A member of the Council shall not be an alderman.

The Council members which are members of national minorities shall be proposed by the national minorities' councils while the Council members who are members of national minorities that do not have national minorities' councils as well as Serbian members shall be proposed by the working body of the Assembly that deals with administrative and employment matters.

The council members' mandate lasts four years and starts from the moment of their election by the Assembly.

Scope of work, composition, election of members and way of working of the Council shall be regulated by an Assembly decree passed by a majority of votes of the total number of aldermen.

#### **Article 50**

The Council decisions are made by consensus of the Council members.

The Council shall inform the Assembly about its stands and proposals which shall take a stand on them at its following session and not later than within 30 days.

The Assembly and the executive bodies of the City shall submit proposals of all their decrees pertaining to national equality to the Council for approval.

A relevant City body shall ensure that positions and proposals of the Council shall be made available to the public not later than 30 days after the Council took a stand or expressed an opinion.

The Rules of Procedure for the Assembly shall stipulate the position of the Council in the proceedings for passing city decrees and other legal acts.

#### **Article 51**

The Council shall submit annual reports on the state of affairs in the field of national equality, interethnic relations and realization of minority rights in the City territory. A constituent part of the report shall be proposals for measures and decrees for achieving and enhancing national equality.

The Council may submit a special report to the Assembly should it deem necessary or if the Assembly requests such a report from it.

#### **Article 52**

The Council has the right to start proceedings before the Constitutional Court for evaluation of constitutionality and lawfulness of a decree or another general act of the Assembly if it deems that it directly violates the rights of Serbians and national minorities represented in the Council for Interethnic Relations, and the right to start proceedings, under the same conditions, before the Supreme Court of Serbia for evaluation of conformity of a decree or another general act of the Assembly with the Statute.

### ***Youth Council***

#### **Article 53**

The Youth Council (hereinafter referred to as: Council) shall:

1) initiate and participate in creation of local youth policy in the field of education, sports, use of free time, increasing employment, information, participation activities, ensuring equal opportunity, health care, culture, gender equality, preventing violence and criminality, access to rights, sustainable development and environment and other fields of interest for the youth;

2) participate in creation of special local action plans, programmes and policies, in accordance with the National Youth Strategy, and monitor their realisation;

3) voice opinions about issues of relevance to the youth and inform the City bodies about them;

4) give opinion about regulations and decrees drafted by the Assembly in the fields of interest to the youth;

5) adopt annual and periodical reports on realisation of local youth policies and local action plans and youth programmes and submit them to the Assembly, Mayor and the City Board;

6) initiate preparation of projects or participation of the City in youth programmes and projects in order to improve the position of young people and ensure realisation of their rights which are under the City's jurisdiction;

7) stimulate cooperation between the City and youth organisations and associations and support realisation of their activities;

8) stimulate realisation of inter-municipal cooperation pertaining to the youth and inform the City bodies about it;

9) express opinions about project proposals, of relevance to the youth, partially or entirely financed from the City budget, follow up on their realisation and give its opinion to the relevant City body.

#### **Article 54**

The council shall consist of 11 members.

The President and members of the Council shall be elected for a period of four years and when their mandate ends they can be re-elected.

#### **Article 55**

The President of the Council and its members shall be elected by the Assembly following proposals by the Mayor, President of the Assembly, aldermen groups, local communities, citizens' associations, youth organisations and associations, schools and other public services.

The Assembly shall elect the Council members to include citizens, professionals, representatives of associations, representatives of schools and other public services taking into account gender equality and the need to include members of national minorities in mixed environments.

At least half of the Council members shall be young people aged between 15 and 30 who substantially contributed to affirming positive role and significance of young people in local community, i.e. who won school, faculty, scientific i.e. other award relevant for various fields of interest to the youth.

Other members of the Council shall be elected by the Assembly providing that they have a multi-year experience in dealing with problems of young people, proved expertise, i.e. that they actively participated in a significant number of activities relevant to the youth.

### ***Gender Equality Commission***

#### **Article 56**

Gender Equality Commission shall monitor realisation of gender equality, express opinions about regulations and decrees drafted by the Assembly, suggest activities and measures, especially those that enable realisation of equal opportunities on the City level.

Other individuals may participate in activities of the Gender Equality Commission, upon invitation, without the right to participate in the decision making.

Number of members, their election and way of working of the Commission shall be regulated by a special Assembly decree.

## **2. EXECUTIVE BODIES OF THE CITY**

#### **Article 57**

The executive bodies of the City shall be the Mayor and City Board.

#### ***Mayor***

#### **Article 58**

The Mayor shall perform the following activities:

- 1) act for and on behalf of the City;
- 2) propose solutions for matters decided upon by the Assembly

- 3) act as the commander for budget execution;
  - 4) direct and harmonise activities of the City Administration;
  - 5) issue individual acts within the scope of their authority given by this Statute or by a decree passed by the Assembly;
  - 6) perform other duties as stipulated by the Statute and other acts of the City,
- Apart from the activities pursuant to previous paragraph, the Mayor also performs the following activities stipulated by this Statute:
- 1) report to the Assembly on budget execution;
  - 2) decide on taking short term loans for financing liquidity deficits occurring due to unbalanced movements in budget revenues and expenditures, in accordance with stipulations of the law that regulates the budgetary system;
  - 3) decide on alteration in appropriation during a year, in accordance with the law that regulates the budgetary system;
  - 4) approve general acts of budget beneficiaries which stipulate the number and structure of employees;
  - 5) decide upon use of funds from current budget reserve, in accordance with the law that regulates the budgetary system;
  - 6) establish advisory expert working bodies for certain affairs within their authority;

#### **Article 59**

The Mayor shall be one of the aldermen, elected by the Assembly for a period of four years, by anonymous voting, with a majority of the total number of the aldermen.

The Mayor shall have a deputy who shall replace them in the event of their absence or inability to perform their duties.

Candidate for the Mayor shall be proposed by the President of the Assembly. The candidate for the Mayor shall propose a candidate for the Deputy Mayor who shall be one of the aldermen, to be elected by the Assembly, in accordance with the same procedure that applies to election of the Mayor.

Election for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor shall halt their Assembly mandate. The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor shall be permanently employed.

#### ***City Board***

#### **Article 60**

The City Board shall comprise the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 9 members of the City Board.

The Assembly shall elect 9 members of the City Board following a proposal by the Mayor.

Members of the City Board may be permanently employed.

The Mayor shall act as the Chairperson and the Deputy Mayor shall be a member of the City Board.

#### **Article 61**

The Assembly shall appoint the executive bodies of the City by direct procedure as stipulated by the law.

Should one of the candidates not be elected in the first round of voting, the voting procedure for that candidate shall be repeated at the same session.

If, after repeated voting, the proposed candidate still does not get elected, the authorised proposer shall propose a new candidate for the next Assembly session.

### **Article 62**

The Municipal Board shall perform the following activities:

- 1) propose the Statute, budget and other decrees and acts enacted by the Assembly;
- 2) execute and take care of execution of decrees and other acts enacted by the Assembly;
- 3) pass a decree on temporary financing in case the Assembly fails to adopt a budget before the start of a fiscal year;
- 4) decide upon leasing and renting, as well as on termination of lease and rental agreements and mortgaging real estate used by the City bodies, in accordance with the law;
- 5) supervise activities of the City Administration, abrogate or suspend acts of the City Administration which are not in accordance with the law, Statute or other general act or decree passed by the Assembly;
- 6) decide within administrative procedure within the second degree on rights and responsibilities of citizens, enterprises and institutions and other organisations pertaining to administrative matters within jurisdiction of the City;
- 7) take care of execution of authorities delegated from the scope of rights and responsibilities of the Republic, i.e. Autonomous Province;
- 8) appoint and dismiss the Head of City Administration and Deputy Head of City Administration.

### **Article 63**

The City Board shall have a Secretary dealing with expert-administrative activities supporting the City Board.

The Secretary of the City Board shall be one of the employees in the City Administration appointed by the City Board following a proposal by the Mayor.

The Secretary of the City Board shall be an individual with a law degree, passed professional exam for working in government bodies and minimum five years of work experience in administration.

### **Article 64**

Sessions of the City Board shall be public.

The City Board may decide that its sessions shall not be public for security and other reasons stipulated by law.

The City Board shall issue rulings at a session only if majority of its members are present. The rulings shall be made by a majority of votes of present members, unless when it comes to matters which shall be decided upon by a majority of votes of the total number of members:

- 1) passing a decree on proposal of the City Statute;
- 2) passing a decree on budget proposal;
- 3) passing a decree on temporary financing;
- 4) appointing the Head of the City Administration;
- 5) proposing an act on organization of the City Administration;
- 6) proposing a decree on establishing new legal entities.

The City Board shall have its Rules of Procedure stipulating organisation, way of working and other matters of relevance for performing activities of the Board.

## **3. CITY ADMINISTRATION**

### **Article 65**

City Administration shall:

1. draft regulations and other acts to be passed by the Assembly, Mayor and the City Board;
2. execute decrees and other acts passed by the Assembly, Mayor and the City Board;
3. decide within administrative procedure within the first degree on rights and responsibilities of citizens, enterprises and institutions and other organisations pertaining to administrative matters within jurisdiction of the City;
4. perform administrative supervision over execution of decrees and other general acts passed by the Assembly;
5. execute laws and other regulations execution of which has been entrusted to the City;
6. perform expert and other activities as determined by the Assembly, Mayor and the City Board.

#### **Article 66**

The City Administration shall act in accordance with the code of professional ethics, impartially and in a politically neutral manner and it shall provide equal legal protection to everyone in realisation of their rights, responsibilities and legal interests.

The City Administration shall provide prompt and efficient realisation of rights and interests of citizens.

The City Administration shall cooperate with citizens and respect citizens' individuality and dignity..

#### **Article 67**

The City Administration shall be established as a sole body.

#### **Article 68**

The City Administration as a sole body shall be governed by a Head of Administration.

The Head of City Administration may be an individual with a law degree, passed professional exam for working in government bodies and minimum five years of professional experience.

Organizational units for performing similar activities may be formed within the Municipal Administration.

#### **Article 69**

The Head of City Administration shall be appointed by the City Board, on the basis of an open competition, for a period of five years.

The Head of City Administration shall in case of absence or inability to perform their duties be replaced by a deputy.

The Deputy Head of City Administration shall be appointed in the same way and under the same conditions as the Head of Administration.

Managers of organisational units in the Administration shall be appointed by the Head of Administration.

#### **Article 70**

The Head of Administration shall, for his own work and for operations of the City Administration, answer to the City Assembly and the City Board in accordance with the City Statute and a City decree on organization of the City Administration.

### **Article 71**

For performing certain activities the Mayor may appoint five assistants who shall be individuals with appropriate university education and other necessary qualifications relevant to the scope of operations, as well as minimum five years of experience in the field.

The assistants pursuant to previous paragraph may be appointed in the following fields: economic development, communal self-government, information, agriculture, public utilities, urbanism, environmental protection, culture, foreign relations, basic health protection and social security.

The assistants shall start initiatives, suggest projects, give opinions pertaining to matters of interest for development in the fields for which they are appointed and perform other duties as stipulated by the organisation act of the City Administration.

### **Article 72**

#### ***Internal Audit and Budgetary Control***

A unit for internal audit and budgetary control may be established within the City Administration.

Internal audits and budgetary control within the City Administration shall be performed by an internal auditor and budgetary controller.

The Internal Audit unit established within the City Administration shall coordinate activities of internal auditors of indirect City budget beneficiaries if such unites are organised, i.e. perform internal audits. The Budgetary Controller shall conduct external control of indirect City budget beneficiaries, public enterprises established by the local authorities, legal entities founded by those public enterprises, i.e. legal entities where 50% of the capital and more than 50% of board of directors' votes is directly or indirectly controlled by the local authorities; as well as of other legal entities where local public funds comprise more than 50% of the total revenue.

The Internal Auditor and Budgetary Controller shall be appointed by the Head of City Administration with Mayor's approval.

All other matters pertaining to internal control and audit, not regulated by this Statute, shall be stipulated by a special decree.

### **Article 73**

An Act on organisation of the City Administration shall be issued by the Assembly following a proposal by the City Board.

An act on internal organisation and systematisation of the City Administration shall be issued by the Head of the City Administration with an approval by the City Board.

### **Article 74**

When performing administrative supervision, the City Administration may:

- 1) instruct, by a ruling, execution of actions and activities within a certain deadline;
- 2) impose a mandatory fine;
- 3) report a criminal act or an economic offence to relevant authorities and file a motion to institute proceedings;
- 4) issue a temporary order, i.e. a restraint;
- 5) inform another body should there be reasons for taking measures falling under the jurisdiction of the body;
- 6) take other measures for which it is authorised by the law, regulation or a general act.

Authorisation and organisation for performing the activities listed in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be stipulated by a decree passed by the Assembly.

#### **Article 75**

In proceedings before the City Administration where rights, obligations and interests of citizens and legal entities are being ruled upon, the administrative procedure shall apply.

#### **Article 76**

The Municipal Board shall resolve conflicts of authority between the Municipal Administration and other enterprises, organisations and institutions when, based on a decree passed by the Assembly, they decide on certain rights of citizens, legal entities or other parties.

The Head of City Administration shall resolve conflicts of authority between internal organisational units.

#### **Article 77**

Activities of the City Administration pertaining to realisation of rights, obligations and interests of citizens and legal entities may be conducted by individuals having appropriate education, passed professional exam for working in government bodies and appropriate work experience, in accordance with the law and other regulations.

#### **Article 78**

Discharge of the Head of City Administration shall be decided upon by the City Board.

Discharge of a civic servant shall be decided upon by the Head of Administration.

### **V DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN REALISATION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT**

#### **Article 79**

Citizens with voting rights and resident status participate in realisation of local self-government in the city territory by means of civic initiative, citizens' meeting and referendum unless otherwise stipulated by the law.

#### **Article 80**

By means of civic initiative, citizens shall propose to the Assembly to pass an act, which would regulate certain issue within the jurisdiction of the City, to amend the Statute or other acts and to call for a referendum in accordance with the law and Statute.

The proposal pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall be discussed by the Assembly who shall proceed to provide the citizens with an explained response within the period of 60 days after the date of receiving the proposal.

The civic initiative shall be considered validly started if signed by minimum 10% of voters registered in the voter registration list on the day when the act on civic initiative is being submitted.

#### **Article 81**

A list of co-signers of civic initiative shall contain:

- indication of the proposal the signatures are collected for, with reference number of relevant authority;

- information about co-signers of the initiative filled in the following columns: ordinal number of the civic initiative, co-signer's name, legibly written in block capitals and confirmed by personal signature, co-signer's address; co-signer's ID number, if one has it; co-signer's identity card registration number,
- date and place where signatures are collected;
- statement by the Initiative Board, i.e. the board that collected the signatures, confirming that all co-signers have the right to participate in civic initiatives in accordance with the law and that they signed the list only once, as well as a remark about possible withdrawal of citizens' signature; and
- signatures of members of the Initiation Board, i.e. the board that collected the signatures.

### **Article 82**

A citizens' meeting shall be convoked for a part of the City territory: local community, a part of a local community, a settlement or a part of a settlement.

A citizens' meeting shall be convoked by a president of a local community council, and it may also be convoked by the Mayor.

A citizens' meeting shall be organised to discuss and make proposals pertaining to matters within the jurisdiction of the City bodies.

Citizens shall approve requests and proposals by a majority of votes of the total number of citizen present at the meeting and address them to the Assembly or specific bodies and departments of the City.

The city bodies and departments shall consider requests and proposals by the citizens, take a stand on them, i.e. make appropriate rulings or take measures and inform the citizens about them within 60 days following the citizens' meeting.

An initiative for convoking a citizens' meeting may be given by:

- any citizen whose proposal is supported by not less than 30 citizens;
- a local community council;
- not less than 1/3 of aldermen;
- City Board;
- a civic association.

### **Article 83**

The citizens shall be informed about a meeting being convoked by posting the decision to convoke the meeting on notice boards, communicating it by media or in another usual way.

A citizens' meeting shall be presided over by its convoker or by an individual authorised by them.

### **Article 84**

By means of referendum, citizens shall decide upon:

- statutory changes of the City (merger, acquisition, division);
- implementing a voluntary tax;
- other matters within the city jurisdiction as decided by the City Assembly.

### **Article 85**

The Assembly shall call for a referendum on issues falling under its jurisdiction if proposed by not less than 10% of the total City voting body in accordance with the procedure stipulated by the law and Statute.

A referendum ruling shall be made if it has been voted for by the majority of the citizens who casted their vote, on condition that more than half of the total number of the citizens of the voted.

A referendum ruling shall be abiding and the Assembly can not abolish it, nor change its essence by changes or additions during the following period of one year after the decision was made.

#### **Article 86**

The Assembly shall issue a decree calling for a referendum following a proposal of:

- a majority of the total number of aldermen;
- City Board;
- not less than 10% of voters in the City territory.

A decree calling for a referendum shall set a deadline for referendum realisation which can not be shorter than 15 nor longer than 90 days starting from the date when the referendum was called for.

#### **Article 87**

The Assembly shall call for a referendum for a part of the City territory on matters pertaining to needs, i.e. interests of population of that part of the territory, if the list of co-signers of the request has been compiled in accordance with the law and signed by not less than 10 percent of the voters, as per the last issued ruling concluding the voters list for election of aldermen, from the City territory for which the referendum announcement is requested.

#### **Article 88**

The Assembly may establish advisory civic councils to deal with matters important for the City development.

A decree establishing the advisory body shall stipulate its name, number of members and other matters pertaining to its work.

#### **Article 89**

To enable direct participation of citizens and consultations by means of public discussions, the City bodies shall establish cooperation with local communities and civic associations.

#### **Article 90**

City bodies and departments shall keep the public informed about their activities through media and in other appropriate ways.

Bodies and departments of the City shall provide citizens with necessary data, clarifications and information within the proceedings of realisation of their rights and responsibilities.

Bodies and departments of the City shall provide equal opportunity for everyone to file a complaint related to their operations and about irregularities and conduct of their employees.

Bodies and departments of the City shall provide a response to the complainant, within 30 days, providing that the complainant makes such request.

#### **Article 91**

In the City territory, local communities, peace councils may be established to enable peaceful settlement of citizens' disputes pertaining to their free-exercise rights.

The Assembly shall stipulate issues, procedure, organisation and the way of working for the peace councils.

## **VI COMMUNAL SELF-GOVERNMENT**

### **Article 92**

Local communities shall be established to satisfy needs of local population in the settlements.

A local community may also be established for two or more settlements.

The following shall be established in the City territory: LC 'Venac', LC 'Crvenka', LC 'Mlake', LC 'Selenca', LC 'Nova Selenca', LC 'Stara Selenca', LC 'Gornja Varos', LC 'Aleksa Santic', LC 'Backi Breg', LC 'Backi Monostor', LC 'Bezdan', LC 'Rastina', LC 'Gakovo', LC 'Doroslovo', LC 'Kljajicevo', LC 'Kolut', LC 'Ridjica', LC 'Svetozar Miletic', LC 'Stanisic', LC 'Stapar', LC 'Telecka' и LC 'Conoplja'.

The Assembly shall, by a majority of votes of the total number of aldermen, decide upon establishment, the area for which they are being established as well as upon abolishment of local communities.

Prior to issuing a ruling on establishment of a new local community, alteration of territory and abolishment of a local community, the Assembly shall obtain opinion from citizens residing in the part of the City territory in respect of which the proposal is applicable.

Prior to issuing a ruling on alteration of territory and abolishment of a local community, the Assembly shall obtain opinion from the council of the local community in respect of which the proposal is applicable.

When determining the territory of a local community, specific characteristics of individual areas shall be taken into account (size of the area, spread, joint interests and needs).

### **Article 93**

The statute of a local community, in accordance with the Statute and a decree establishing the local community, shall stipulate its activities, bodies and election procedure, organisation and operations of its bodies, decision making process and other matters of relevance for operations of the local community.

### **Article 94**

A local community shall have legal entity status within rights and responsibilities stipulated by this Statute and the decree on its establishment.

### **Article 95**

The Assembly may, by its decree, delegate certain activities falling within the City jurisdiction to all or some local communities, with provision of necessary resources.

For performing certain activities within the jurisdiction of the City Administration, especially related to realisation of citizens' rights, City Administration activities may be organised in the local communities.

The activities pursuant to paragraph 2 of this Article and the place where they would be performed shall be defined by the by the Head of Municipal Administration.

### **Article 96**

Funding for local community affairs shall be provided from:

1. funds allocated by a decree on the City budge, including funds collected by voluntary taxes;

2. donations;
3. revenues that a local community obtains as a result of its activities,
4. other funds in accordance with the law.

A local community shall adopt a financial plan for every year.

## **VII RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BODIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA, AUTONOMOUS PROVINCE OF VOJVODINA AND THE BODIES OF THE CITY OF SOMBOR**

### **Article 97**

The city bodies, bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina and bodies of the Republic of Serbia, in order to exercise their rights and responsibilities, shall establish mutual cooperation, in accordance with the Constitution, law and other regulations.

The bodies of the Republic of Serbia and bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina shall supervise the lawfulness of the City bodies' activities and acts, in accordance with the Constitution, law and decrees.

An authorised City body shall deliver required information, papers and documents to a body of the Republic or a body of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina performing the supervision over the lawfulness of operations and acts, in due time.

The responsibility to deliver required information, papers and documents lies with: the Mayor for the executive bodies, the Secretary of the Assembly, when the supervision is performed over operations and acts of the Assembly, and the Head of City Administration, when the supervision pertains to acts and operations of the City Administration.

### **Article 98**

While performing their duties, the City bodies and departments shall:

1) give initiatives to the bodies of the Republic of Serbia and the bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, pertaining to regulation of relations relevant for the local self-government and for taking measures relevant for resolving matters falling under the rights and responsibilities of the City;

2) submit requests and give proposals related to conduct of the bodies of the Republic of Serbia and bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina;

3) request opinion from relevant authority of the Republic of Serbia and of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina about application of law and other regulations of immediate interest to development and realisation of local self-government and affairs of the City bodies;

4) participate, by themselves or through their associations, in preparation of laws and other regulations content of which is of specific interest for realisation and development of local self-government.

## **VIII COOPERATION AND ASSOCIATIONS**

### **Article 99**

The City bodies and departments, as well as enterprises, institutions and other organisations established by it, shall form associations and cooperate with other units of local self-government and their bodies and departments in the field of common interest and, for

realisation of such interests, they may join resources and establish joint bodies, enterprises and other organisations and institutions, in accordance with the law and Statute.

The City may cooperate in fields of common interest with appropriate territorial communities and units of local self-government from other countries, within the scope of the foreign policy of the Republic of Serbia, with respect to territorial unity and the legal order of the Republic of Serbia, in accordance with the Constitution and law.

A decree on cooperation with appropriate territorial communities, municipalities and cities shall be passed by the Assembly, with an approval from the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

An agreement or other act establishing such cooperation shall be signed by the Mayor or an individual authorised by him.

The act pursuant to paragraph 3 of this Article shall be published after obtaining an approval from the Government of the Republic of Serbia.

The City shall establish or join associations of cities and municipalities in order to represent interests of their members before government bodies and specifically in the process for passing laws and other acts of significance for protection, enhancement and financing the local self-government, as well as other regulations relevant for realisation of activities of local self-government units.

The City bodies shall cooperate with non-governmental organisations, humanitarian organisations and other organisations in the best interest of its citizens.

Initiative for cooperation and association may be started by the City bodies, relevant body of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, associations of cities and municipalities and a regional association.

## **IX SYMBOLS AND NAMES OF PARTS OF SETTLEMENTS IN THE CITY**

### **Article 100**

The City symbols shall be the coat of arms and flag pursuant to paragraph 10 of this Statute.

The conditions of use of the coat of arms and the flag shall be decreed by the Assembly.

### **Article 101**

The coat of arms and the City flag shall only be used alongside with national symbols.

In the official premises of the City bodies, national symbols, symbols of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, City symbols and symbols of national minorities whose language is officially recognised in the City territory, shall be displayed.

### **Article 102**

Settlements and local communities may have their holidays as stipulated by the statutes of the local communities.

### **Article 103**

The City shall designate names of streets, squares, city quarters and parts of settlements in its territory by a special decree, with previous consent of the ministry authorised to deal with local self-government affairs.

When a language of a national minority is recognised as official in the City territory, a previous opinion shall be obtained from the national committee for national minorities.

#### **Article 104**

The City shall establish awards and other public recognitions to organisations and individuals for outstanding achievements in science, culture, art, economy and other social fields.

The City may award the title of the honorary citizen.

The awards and other public recognitions as well as the title of the honorary citizen shall be awarded on the occasion of the City holiday.

Types of awards and other public recognitions, terms and conditions of their assignment, as well as terms and conditions of awarding the honorary citizen title shall be regulated by a special decree of the City Assembly.

### **X PROTECTION OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT**

#### **Article 105**

The Mayor may start the proceedings for assessment of constitutionality and legality of a law or another general act of the Republic of Serbia or Autonomous Province of Vojvodina which violates the right to local self-government, on their own initiative or following an initiative by other City bodies.

#### **Article 106**

The Mayor and the Head of City Administration shall have the right to appeal to the Constitutional Court should an individual act or an activity of a government body, a body of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, or a City body disable execution of municipal duties, on their own initiative or following an initiative by other City bodies.

#### ***Ombudsman***

#### **Article 107**

An Ombudsman may be appointed in the City, authorised to control realisation of citizens' rights, determine violations made by acts, actions or omissions of the City Administration and public services, when there is a breach of regulations and general acts of the City.

The Ombudsman shall warn the City Administration and public services about occurrences of unlawful and irregular activities which violate citizens' rights and interests, give them recommendations and critics and inform the Assembly about it.

The Ombudsman shall act on the basis of and in accordance with the Constitution, law, confirmed international agreements and generally accepted rules of international law as well as the City Statute.

The Ombudsman shall follow the principles of legality, impartially, independence and righteousness.

In the field of protection of human and minority rights, the Ombudsman shall:

- 1) monitor realisation of human and minority rights and give recommendations for enhancement of realisation of human and minority rights;
- 2) gather information about execution of law and other regulations in the field of human rights and the right to local self-government;
- 3) draw up annual report on realisation of human and minority rights;
- 4) inform the public about violation of human and minority rights;
- 5) receive and examine appeals related violation of human and minority rights;
- 6) mediate peaceful settlements of disputes related to violation of human rights;

7) initiate appropriate proceedings before relevant authorities in case of violation of human rights;

8) organise and participate in organisation of expert meetings, consultations and campaigns to raise public awareness about issues of relevance to realisation of human and minority rights;

9) initiate and urge education on human and minority rights;

10) perform other duties as stipulated by the law, Statute and Assembly decree.

While performing his duties, the Ombudsman shall cooperate with ombudsmen from other municipalities and cities, with the Provincial Ombudsman and his offices, as well as with the Ombudsman of the Republic of Serbia.

The City Administration and public services shall provide the Ombudsman, upon his request, with data and information relevant for performing his duties.

#### **Article 108**

The Ombudsman shall be elected and dismissed by the Assembly by a majority of votes of the total number of aldermen.

A proposal for election of the Ombudsman shall be submitted by a group of alderman or not less than a third of aldermen.

The Ombudsman shall be an individual who, apart from general conditions for achieving the voting right (citizenship, legal age, business ability, residential status in the City territory), shall have a law degree, exquisite professional ability and high moral integrity, with not less than five years of work experience in the field of human and minority rights, with no criminal record.

The Ombudsman shall be elected for a period of five years and may be re-elected for the position one more time.

The Ombudsman shall not be a member of a political party and shall not perform any public duty nor any professional activity.

All other issues not stipulated by this Statute shall be regulated by a special decree.

#### **Article 109**

The Ombudsman shall be dismissed before the end of his mandate should he be convicted of a felony to serve jail time, should he fail to perform duties within his jurisdiction in a professional, independent and conscientious way, or should he perform a function, i.e. activities incompatible with the position of ombudsman.

A proposal to dismiss an ombudsman may be given by a group of aldermen or by not less than one third of aldermen.

Dismissal of the Ombudsman is decided upon by the Assembly by a majority of the total number of aldermen.

#### **Article 110**

The Ombudsman shall submit annual reports to the Assembly

Should he deem necessary for addressing certain issues, the ombudsman may submit a special report to the Assembly.

The Assembly shall deal with the Ombudsman's report at its following session.

The Ombudsman shall have the right to participate in sessions of the Assembly and its working bodies, as well as to participate in discussions on matters falling under his jurisdiction.

## **XI ACTS OF THE CITY AND ITS BODIES**

### **Article 111**

Within the rights stipulated by the Constitution and the law, the City shall independently pass regulations to legislate matters within its authentic jurisdiction, in accordance with the City Statute.

In conducting delegated activities, the City shall pass regulations and acts on the basis of authorisation given by the law and within the scope of the authorisation.

### **Article 112**

Regulations, general and individual acts within the City jurisdiction shall only be passed by the Assembly.

The Mayors shall pass individual acts within their authority in accordance with the Statute and Assembly decrees.

### **Article 113**

Decrees and general acts passed by the Assembly shall be in compliance with the Constitution, law and this Statute.

Acts passed by the Mayor, City Board and City Administration shall be in compliance with the Constitution, law, this Statute, decrees and general acts of the Assembly.

### **Article 114**

The City Board, City Administration, every alderman, as well as 1% of the voters, may initiate enactment of regulations and general acts within the Assembly jurisdiction.

The City Board shall draft the acts to be passed by the Assembly.

### **Article 115**

General acts of City bodies shall be published in the 'Official Gazette of the City of Sombor', unless stipulated otherwise.

Acts pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article shall come into force on the eight day of their publication, unless if their enactor, within the enactment proceedings, determines justified reasons for it to come into force at an earlier time which shall not be before their publication 'Official Gazette of the City of Sombor'.

Other acts of the City shall be published in the 'Official Gazette of the City of Sombor' at a time stipulated in the acts.

Acts pursuant to paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article shall be equally published in languages and alphabets which are recognised as official in the City territory.

### **Article 116**

A clarification decree text, when the obligation to issue clarified texts is stipulated, shall be determined by the working body of the Assembly specifically authorised for it by the act.

A clarification text shall be prepared by the organisational unit of the City Administration authorised for the field to which the decree pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article relates.

## **XII THE STATUTE INTERPRETATION, ENACTMENT AND AMENDMENTS**

### **Article 117**

An authentic interpretation of the Statute shall be issued by the Assembly following a proposal from the City Board.

### **Article 118**

A proposal to pass or amend the Statute may be submitted by: not less than 10% of the City voting body, by one third of aldermen and by the City Board.

The proposal pursuant to paragraph 1 shall be submitted in writing and contain a clarification.

The Assembly shall decide upon the proposal pursuant to paragraph 1 of this Article by a majority of votes of the total number of aldermen.

Should the Assembly decide to start the proceedings for enactment or amendment of the Statute, the same decree shall stipulate the method and procedure for passing, i.e. amending the Statute and appoint a Commission for drafting an act addressing enactment or amendment of the Statute.

The Assembly shall adopt the Statute enactment or amendment act by a majority of votes of the total number of the aldermen.

### **Article 119**

Exceptionally, when the Statute is being passed or amended in order to be brought in accordance with the law, the Statute proposal is issued by the City Board, without following the procedure stipulated by the previous paragraph.

## **XIII TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 120**

The City Administration Decree shall be brought in accordance with this Statute within 90 days from its entry into force, while other regulations of the City shall be brought in accordance with stipulations of this Statute within six months from the date of entry into force of the Statute.

### **Article 121**

On the day when this Statute enters into force, the Statute of the City of Sombor ('Official Gazette of the City of Sombor', reference 7/2002 and 16/2002) shall cease to be valid.

### **Article 122**

This Statute shall come into force on the eight day of its publication in the 'Official Gazette of the City of Sombor'.

**PRESIDENT  
OF THE CITY ASSEMBLY,  
Nemanja Delic, LL.B**