

Mayor may
call special
meetings.

XVII. It shall be lawful for the Mayor of the said Town whenever he shall deem it necessary or useful, to call special meetings of the said Council, and whenever two members shall be desirous of obtaining such special meeting they shall apply to the Mayor to call such meeting, and in the absence of the Mayor, or on his refusal to act, they may call such meeting 5 themselves, on stating in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer of the said Council, their object in calling such special meeting, and the day on which they are desirous that it shall be held; and the said Secretary-Treasurer shall upon receipt of such written notification, communicate the same to the other members of the Council. 10

Decision of
contested elec-
tions.

XVIII. 1st. If the election of all, or of one or more of the Councillors be contested, such contestation shall be decided by the Circuit Court of the Circuit of Three Rivers.

Who may con-
test.

2nd. Every such election may be so contested by one or more of the Candidates or at least ten of the electors of the said Town. 15

And how.

3rd. The said contestation shall be brought before the Court, by a petition signed by the petitioner or petitioners, or by any Attorney duly authorized, setting forth in a clear manner the grounds of such contestations.

Form of pro-
ceedings.

4th. A true copy of the petition, with a notice stating the day on which the said petition will be presented to the Court, shall be first duly served 20 upon the Councillor or Councillors whose election is contested, at least eight days before the day on which the said petition shall be presented to the Court; and a return of the service shall be drawn up and signed in due form upon the original of the said petition by the person who shall have made such service; but no such petition shall be received after the 25 term next following the election thereby contested, unless such election took place within the fifteen days next preceding the first day of such term, in which case any such petition may be presented on the first day of the second term, but not later; nor shall any such petition be received unless security for costs be given by the petitioners. 30

Court may
proceed in a
summary man-
ner.

5th. If the Court be of opinion that the grounds set forth in the petition are sufficient in law to void the election, it shall order proof to be adduced if proof be necessary and the parties interested to be heard on the nearest day which it shall deem expedient; and shall proceed in a summary manner to hear the said contestation; the evidence may be taken down in writ- 35 ting or given orally in whole or in part, as the Court shall order: And if the trial of such contestation be not concluded at the close of the term of the Court during which it began, the Judge shall continue the same in vacation: and shall adjourn from day to day until he shall have pronounced his final judgment upon the merits of the same: And every such judgment 40 so pronounced and all proceedings had in any such case in vacation shall have the same effect as if the same had been pronounced or had in term.

Powers of
Court with re-
spect to costs.

6th. The Court may on such contestation confirm the election or declare the same to be null and void, or to declare another person to have been duly elected, and may in either case award costs to or against either party, 45 which costs shall be taxed and recovered in the same manner, and by the same means, as costs are taxed and recovered in actions of the first class brought in such Circuit Court; and the Court may order its judgment to be served upon the warden, or if there be no such officer upon the registrar