



Town Charter: 1889

The earliest town charter for Mount Airy dates back to 1889. It contains the following excerpts:

"That the inhabitants of the City town of Mount Airy shall continue to be as heretofore a body corporate, under the name of "the Town of Mount Airy," and under the name and style of "The Town of Mount Airy," and under such name is hereby invested with all privileges, immunities and franchises property and all other rights hereto belonging or appertaining to the town of Mount Airy, and in and by that name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, acquire and hold property, real and personal, for the use of the town, as its board of commissioners may deem necessary and expedient.

The officers of the town of Mount Airy shall consist of a Mayor and five commissioners, to be elected by ballot on the first Monday in May of each year (or any other day as may be designated and set apart by the general law of the State for municipal elections); also a constable, secretary and a treasurer, to be chosen by the board of commissioners immediately after its organization, to hold for one year or until successors are elected and qualified; and it shall be the duty of the Mayor to give notice of the election ten days previous thereto by posters written or printed and put up at three or more public places within the corporate limits of the town; and if the board of commissioner of Surry County shall fail or neglect to appoint inspectors, two resident citizens shall be appointed by the mayor, who with himself shall hold said election.

The mayor, as a peace officer shall have within the corporate limits, all the powers of a justice of the peace, and as a judicial officer within the same jurisdiction and authority necessary to issue, process upon and to hear and determine all cases arising upon the ordinances of the board of commissioners, to impose penalties upon the adjudged violation thereof, to fine and imprison either in the Guard House of the town or the common jail of the county, and execute all laws and ordinances of the town; Provided, that in all cases any person dissatisfied with his judgment may appeal to the Superior Court of Surry County, upon recognition, with security for his appearance at the next term thereof.

That every violation of a town ordinance shall be a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine of not more than fifty dollars or imprisonment of not more than thirty days."