

MOTION: Move that in accordance with Minnesota Statute 412.271, subd. 8 the City Council has reviewed the enclosed list of claims paid by check and by electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$4,375,161.06.

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. All Ayes, Motion carried.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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A. First Reading of Ordinance 1643 Amending Chapter 2, Section 7 pertaining to Elective Offices

City Clerk Katie Bruno reported the Charter Commission has discussed changing the term of the Mayor from two years to four years, at both their July and October meetings. The Charter commission voted to recommend the change.

Councilmember Buesgens stated she sees the costs associated with running for election, the fact that there is a learning curve for a newly elected mayor, and name recognition as justification for a four year term.

Councilmember Murzyn, Jr. commented that this item was a question on the ballot 10-15 years ago, and at that time it was voted down. Murzyn suggested the decision be made by the residents.

Councilmember Novitsky reported he didn't spend a lot of money during his campaign. Novitsky and Williams agreed that the item should be on the ballot for voters to decide. City Attorney Jim Hoeft explained the process, indicating the following options are available;

- Council can approve the 1st reading and schedule a second reading (unanimous vote required at both 1st and 2nd readings).
- Council can deny, and the item will go back to the Charter Commissions for consideration. The Charter can either drop the item, or have it added to the ballot as a question.

Mayor Schmitt asked the council members if they have heard opinions on the subject. Councilmember Buesgens reported she has heard people in favor of changing it to four years; the other three members have all heard people wanting to keep it to a two year term.

Andy Smoka-1206 Khyber Lane stated that while he agrees that two years is not a lot of time to learn the responsibilities for a new mayor, he feels it should remain a two year term.

Nell Bing-3966 5th St NE agreed with Councilmember Buesgens, that two years is not adequate time to learn the role of mayor.

Motion by Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams to waive the reading of Ordinance No. 1643, there being ample copies available to the public. All Ayes, Motion Carried.

Mayor Schmitt clarified that if the item is placed on the ballot as a question, it would not be in effect until the following election cycle. Mayor Schmitt agreed that there is a lot to learn as a new mayor and she feels it would be good for the council to reflect the overall population of the City. Schmitt stated she thinks it is a decision to be made by the residents.

Motion Councilmember Buesgens, seconded by Councilmember Williams to schedule the second reading of Ordinance No.1643, being an ordinance amending Chapter 2, Section 7 of the City's Charter pertaining to elective Offices for February 12, 2018 at approximately 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. 1 Aye, 4 Nays, Motion Failed. Aye: Buesgens. Nays: Schmitt, Williams, Murzyn, Jr., and Novitsky