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### **Section 3.02. Qualifications, elections and terms.**

- (1) Qualifications of the commissioners. Any citizen who is a registered elector and whose principal place of residence is within the corporate limits of Cooper City, and who has resided continuously in the city and within the election district from which he or she seeks to be elected for one (1) year prior to qualifying as a candidate for the office shall be eligible to hold the office of mayor or commissioner. When any member of the commission ceases to possess the foregoing qualifications as specified in this Section and/or Section 3.01, that member shall immediately forfeit the office, shall be removed from the commission and shall be replaced according to the procedures concerning vacancies found in Section 3.10 of this Article. However, in the event that an adjustment is made in the configuration of election districts pursuant to Section 3.03, said adjustment shall not be applied in any manner that would affect or impair the qualifications of a commissioner who was qualified when elected.

The commission shall be the judge of the qualifications of its members and of the grounds for forfeiture of office. A member charged with conduct constituting grounds for forfeiture of office shall be entitled to a public hearing on demand, and notice of such hearing shall be published in one or more newspaper of general circulation in the city and posted to the City's website and at City Hall, at least one week in advance of the hearing.

- (2) Election and terms of office. The mayor and all commissioners shall be elected to a term of four (4) years. Such election shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of any even number calendar year in accordance with ch. 2004-443 and 2005-318, Laws of Florida, as amended.
- (3) Term Limitations. The mayor and commissioners are limited to serving three (3) consecutive four (4) year terms. In no event may a person serve as mayor and/or commissioner for more than three (3) terms cumulatively without relinquishing either office for a period of one (1) full term — four (4) years. In the event that a person is appointed or elected to complete, in whole or in part, a remaining portion of an incomplete term of office of mayor or commissioner in order to fill a vacancy created by the resignation, suspension, removal, forfeiture of office or death of the previous office-holder, the time served in office by the person so appointed or elected to fill the vacancy in office, pursuant to Section 3.10 of this Article, shall not be counted towards the term limitations provided by this paragraph (3).

(Ord. No. 94-5-2 (approved by electors 11-8-94; Ord. No. 06-11-1; 11-14-06 (approved by electors 313-07); Ord. No. 12-5-1, § 2, Part A, 5-22-12 (approved by the electors on 11-6-12); Ord. No. 20-4-4, 11-3-20 (approved by electors on 11-3-20))