



Town of Johnstown

TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA COMMUNICATIONS

AGENDA DATE: September 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Establishment of Districts and Wards

ACTION PROPOSED: Discussion Item

PRESENTED BY: Matt LeCerf, Town Manager

AGENDA ITEM DESCRIPTION: Section 2.1.B of the Charter provides: *“If and/or when the population of the Town reaches twenty thousand (20,000), the Town Council shall provide by ordinance, to be effective at the next general municipal election, for the election of six (6) Councilmembers to be nominated and elected by wards and districts, and a Mayor, who shall be nominated and elected from the Town at large.”*

Below are some bullet points for consideration and discussion:

- Four Wards, Two Districts
 - District 1 and District 2
 - Ward 1, District 1; Ward 2, District 1; Ward 3, District 2; and Ward 4, District 2.
- Attempt to preserve subdivision boundaries and follow County lines
- Hire an expert consultant to facilitate boundary creation for both the Districts and Wards
 - Retain by Council during 2030 budget year (based on realistic assumption that the official decennial US Census count will show a population of 20,000)
- Establish a Commission
 - Comprised of:
 - Two councilmembers
 - 3-5 citizen registered electors of the Town
 - Facilitated by outside consultant
- Commission Meeting
 - Commission meets in 2030 and draws preliminary boundaries
 - Commission meets within 30 days of census results to prepare final boundaries
 - Town Attorney thereafter drafts ordinance and Town Manager places ordinance on agenda for Council to consider approval of the final Districts and Wards
 - Following each decennial Census moving forward, the boundaries are reviewed and evaluated for realignment to ensure even population distribution within Johnstown
- Election of Mayor and Six Councilmembers
 - If census results are finalized by October of 2031, then intent to have candidates for District and Wards in 2032 general election
 - If census results are after October of 2031, next realistic general election is likely 2034
- Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies

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- Does Council want to implement it
- Stagger Elections
 - Not both Wards in a District at the same election
 - Not both Districts at the same time
 - Provision to be made for initial candidates
 - Depending on vote count, some candidates will get an initial two-year term and some will get an initial four-year term
- Candidate Petitions – Do we want to follow CRS section 31-10-302(2)(c):
 - An ordinance providing guidance would be applicable for both the wards and districts unless otherwise directed by Council for adjustment
 - *Each [nomination] petition must be signed by registered electors in the following numbers:*
 - *(c) For a candidate in a town, at least ten registered electors residing within the town; and*
 - *(d) For a candidate from a ward within a town, at least ten registered electors residing in the candidate's ward.*
- Insufficient Number of Candidates
 - If there are no candidates running for a District or Ward position, after the election, the Town Council would:
 - With respect to Districts,
 - Appoint a Councilmember from the District;
 - If no candidates apply, appoint a Councilmember from the Town at-large
 - With respect to Wards,
 - Appoint a Councilmember from the Ward;
 - If no candidates apply within the Ward, appoint a Councilmember from the District;
 - If no candidates apply within the District, appoint a Councilmember from the Town at-large

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Once we have input from Council, Town Staff will draft an ordinance setting out the policy.

Reviewed and Approved for Presentation,



Town Manager

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