

Montgomery City Council
AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: July 23, 2024	Budgeted Amount: N/A
Department: ADMIN	Prepared By: J. Greene

Subject

Discuss extending the terms of office of the Mayor and Councilmembers from two to four years.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council initiate the extension of the terms of office to four years.

Discussion

Currently, the Mayor and Councilmembers serve a term of two years. Article 11 of the Texas Constitution allows for the extension of terms of office for up to four years.

Two-year terms require that an annual election be conducted for half of the sitting officials. In terms of productivity, the Mayor and Councilmembers may find it difficult to accomplish the goals and objectives of their office in that time. Further, municipal projects often exceed two years in duration. These implications impact the consistency and efficiency of the city’s operations. Further, elections are becoming increasingly expensive. Staff anticipates that an election will cost approximately \$30,000. Extending terms to four years will allow tax dollars to be diverted to other vital areas of the city’s operating budget when an election is not required.

If the Council chooses to increase the term of office to three years, an annual election will still be required.

If the Council chooses to increase the term of office to four years, elections will occur every second year.

It is important to note that if terms of office are extended beyond two years, a vacancy in any office requires a special election to fill the vacancy.

If the Council desires to extend the term of office, the matter must be decided by the voters in an election. The City is facing two upcoming elections. 1) Special Election for the MCCPD, November 2024; and 2) General Election for Places 1, 3, and 5, May 2025.

If the voters choose to extend the terms of office, the extended terms are not effective until the next election for the Mayor and each Councilmember.

Approved By

James Greene City Secretary		Date: 7/18/2024
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