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MEMORANDUM

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
CC: JOSHUA M. TETZLAFF, CITY ADMINISTRATOR
FROM: KEN ONDICH, PLANNING / COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
ROBIN PIKAL – FINANCE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: RESOLUTION GOVERNING WRITE-IN VOTE COUNTING FOR THE CITY OF
NEW PRAGUE
DATE: MAY 31, 2024

Minnesota Statute 204B.09, Subd. 3 was recently amended to allow cities to pass a resolution concerning the counting of write-in votes for local city election races.

In past elections, the counting of write-in votes has taken considerable time on election night for what amounts to many frivolous names being counted that have no impact on the outcome of the local election.

In order to save time and ultimately save costs for election administration, staff recommends passage of the attached resolution that would only require the counting of write-in votes for local races when the total number of write in votes for an office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate for that same office.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of the attached resolution titled “Governing Write-In Vote Counting for the City of New Prague.”

RESOLUTION #24-06-03-03
GOVERNING WRITE-IN VOTE COUNTING FOR
THE CITY OF NEW PRAGUE

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 204B.09, Subd. 3 authorizes a city to adopt a resolution governing the counting of write-in votes for local election races; and

WHEREAS, a city that adopts a resolution must do so before the first day of filing for office; and

WHEREAS, city officials spend considerable time and resources to count and individually record write-in votes cast, many of which are frivolous; and

WHEREAS, in order to save city and county time and resources, it is in the best interest of the City of New Prague, to enforce restrictions on the counting of write-in votes consistent with the provisions of Minnesota Statute 204B.09, Subd. 3.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council for the City of New Prague, Counties of Scott and Le Sueur, and State of Minnesota that votes for write-in candidates for local races will only be individually recorded if the total number of write-in votes for an office is equal to or greater than the fewest number of non-write-in votes for a ballot candidate for that office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Minnesota Statute 204B.09, Subd. 3, this resolution shall remain in effect until a subsequent resolution on the same subject is adopted by the City of New Prague.

This resolution shall become effective upon its passage and without further publication.

Dated this 3rd day of June 2024.

Duane J. Jirik, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Joshua M. Tetzlaff, City Administrator