

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE PLACING A QUESTION BEFORE THE VOTERS OF THE CITY TO DETERMINE IF THE CITY CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED TO AUTHORIZE AN APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE INCOMPLETE TERM OF AN ELECTED CITY OFFICIAL WHEN A VACANCY OCCURS IN AN ELECTED CITY OFFICE

WHEREAS, the City Charter now requires that the mayor, president pro tempore, or City Council, call a special election to fill a vacancy in the elected City offices of mayor or City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City elected offices are two-year terms, filled by popular vote at a General Municipal Election; and

WHEREAS, the calling of a special election in order for a person to be elected to serve the remainder of an incomplete term of office when a vacancy occurs in a City elected office requires that a vacancy exist for an extended period of time, which creates practical difficulties in governing the City, deprives the citizens of proper representation, and costs the citizens additional funds for the expense of a special election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the best interest of the public would be for the voters to decide whether they want to continue to require that special elections be held to fill incomplete terms of office when a vacancy occurs, or to allow for an appointment, which is currently authorized for almost all other Missouri cities.

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PLEASANT HILL, MISSOURI:

1. The City shall pose the following question to the voters of the City of Pleasant Hill, Missouri, on the April 6, 2021, ballot, to wit:

In lieu of requiring a special election to fill vacancies, shall Section 17 of the Charter of the City of Pleasant Hill be amended as follows?

Should a vacancy occur on the City Council, then the Mayor, or the person acting as the

Mayor, shall appoint, with the consent of a majority of the Council, a person to fill said vacancy until the next general election for city officers. Should a vacancy occur in the office of the Mayor, then nominations of a successor may be made by any member of the City Council and selected with the consent of a majority of the Council.

Any provisions of the City Charter inconsistent with this language shall be repealed.

2. The County Clerk of Cass County, Missouri, is hereby authorized and directed to take notice of said election by causing the same to be published in one newspaper published in accordance with Chapter 493, RSMo.
3. The County Clerk of Cass County, Missouri, shall conduct the election and cause the result thereof to be certified to the City Council by law.
4. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage.

Read and approved this _____ day of _____, _____.

Mark Guffey, Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk