

City Charter Change Question



City Council

1/11/2021



Background

The Charter now requires a special election

Elected offices are two-year terms

When vacancies occur, a special election can be months away.

- Vacancies exist for an extended period of time
- Creates practical difficulties in governing
- Deprives the citizens of proper representation
- Cost citizens additional funds for the expense of a special election

Almost all other Missouri cities have authorization for appointments to fill elected position vacancies.

Language

Current language

Section 17: “All vacancies in the office of Mayor or Councilmen, shall be filled by a special election, to be ordered by the Mayor, President pro tempore, or some of said Councilmen.”

Ballot language

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Any provisions of the City Charter inconsistent with this language shall be repealed.