



AGENDA ITEM ANALYSIS

Project/Issue Name: 23-65 An Ordinance of the City Council Proposing an Amendment to The City Charter Establishing a Schedule for the Election of Councilmembers to Staggered Four-Year Terms at the General Municipal Election Held on Even Years; Calling an Election to be Held on April 2, 2024 on the Proposed Amendment; Authorizing and Directing the City Clerk to Give Notice to the County Clerk of Said Election, and Providing for Enactment of the Proposed Amendment if Approved.

Submitted By: Laura Burbridge, City Clerk
Megan McCullough, City Attorney

Date: December 12, 2023

Issue Statement

To call an election proposing a charter amendment to the voters of Republic.

Discussion and/or Analysis

QUESTION 2: Shall the Charter of the City of Republic, Sections 3.2(c), 14.2(a) and 14.2(b), be amended to establish a schedule for the election of Councilmembers to staggered four-year terms at the General Municipal Election to be held on even years?

This question would correct the stagger implemented in 2019 that created back-to-back elections, followed by two years without an election. The only change would be to hold the elections on even years to create a consistent and balanced election schedule and allow for any appointed seats to be brought to an election within 2 years of the appointment. **The Charter currently reads:**

[3.2 Composition, Qualifications, Election And Terms](#)

[. . .]

(c) Election And Terms. Councilmembers from each Ward shall be elected to serve staggered four-year terms. At each regular municipal election, Councilmembers shall be elected to fill the offices of those whose terms expire.

14.2 Election Of City Officials

- (a) Incumbents. All officials elected on April 2, 2019, shall serve the term to which they were elected. All officials elected prior to April 2, 2019, who would continue in office shall continue in office for the duration of the term to which they were elected.
- (b) City Council. At the municipal election in April of 2020, Councilmembers elected to fill offices with expiring terms from all Wards shall serve four-year terms. At the municipal election in April of



2021, Councilmembers elected to fill offices with expiring terms from all Wards shall serve four-year terms. At each regular municipal election thereafter, Councilmembers shall be elected to fill the offices of those whose terms expire and shall serve full four-year terms. It is the intent of this provision to establish the required staggered terms as set forth in this Charter.

- (c) Mayor. At the municipal election in April of 2020 and every fourth year thereafter, the Mayor shall be elected to serve a full four-year term.

Proposed changes to the Charter:

3.2 Composition, Qualifications, Election And Terms

[. . .]

(c) Election And Terms. Councilmembers from each Ward shall be elected to serve staggered four-year terms with elections held on even years. At each regular municipal election, Councilmembers shall be elected to fill the offices of those whose terms expire.

14.2 Election Of City Officials

- ~~(a) Incumbents. All officials elected on April 2, 2019, shall serve the term to which they were elected. All officials elected prior to April 2, 2019, who would continue in office shall continue in office for the duration of the term to which they were elected.~~
- (b) City Council. ~~At the municipal election in April of 2020, Councilmembers elected to fill offices with expiring terms from all Wards shall serve four year terms. At the municipal election in April of 2021, Councilmembers elected to fill offices with expiring terms from all Wards shall serve four-year terms.~~ At the municipal election in April of 2024, Councilmembers elected to fill offices with expiring terms from all Wards shall serve four-year terms. At the municipal election in April of 2025, Councilmembers elected to fill offices with expiring terms from all Wards shall serve one-year terms. At the municipal election in April of 2026, Councilmembers elected to fill offices with expiring terms from all Wards shall serve four-year terms. At each regular municipal election thereafter, Councilmembers shall be elected to fill the offices of those whose terms expire and shall serve full four-year terms. It is the intent of this provision to establish the required staggered terms as set forth in this Charter.

To implement this stagger, the following seats (shown based on Council Member currently holding seat) have been grouped as Group A and Group B to demonstrate the implementation of the elections:

GROUP A (seats):

- CM Franklin - Ward 1
- CM Wilson – Ward 2
- CM Updike – Ward 3
- CM Neal – Ward 4
- Mayor Matt Russell

GROUP B (seats):

- CM Gerke - Ward 1
- CM Vacant – Ward 2
- CM Fields – Ward 3
- CM Gerlek – Ward 4



NOTE: The names of current Councilmembers appear for demonstration purposes only and ease of review; the inclusion of their names does not indicate or suggest that such Councilmember will be running for re-election or for the specific seat.

The seats would be up for election as follows:

- 2024 Election:
 - Group A-expiring 2024: 4-year terms
 - Group B-seat expiring 2025 but appointed members: 1-year terms
- 2025 Election: Group B-election for another 1-year term to get to even year
- 2026 Election: Group B-election for 4-year term
- 2028 Election: Group A-election for 4-year term

All elections following the 2025 Election would be on schedule as proposed.

Recommended Action

Staff recommends approval.