

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY SHEET

CITY OF ROLLINGWOOD, TEXAS

MEETING DATE: September 21, 2022

Submitted by: Brook Brown

Agenda Item __: Discussion and possible action in regard to adoption of ordinance addressing eligibility requirements for Rollingwood boards and commission.

Background: *Requirements for public office typically define certain minimum criteria with respect to age, residency, citizenship and disqualifications (felony conviction, incompetence) and are intended to assure that public officials have an understanding of and acceptance of US history and governmental systems (citizenship), share the interests of the residents they serve (residency), are of voting age (age) and have the capacity to understand, accept, and observe the responsibilities of public office (no ethical or mental disqualification).*

In 2020, during the pandemic, the City Council eliminated repealed City Ordinance 2-193 which had the effect of eliminating all requirements (age, residence, citizenship, criminal history) for holding a position on a Rollingwood board or commission. The stated grounds for this action was to widen the pool of available applicants for these positions. As a result, there are currently no requirements for serving on a Rollingwood board or commission.

Because these positions are frequently a "training ground" for Rollingwood city council, and because these offices serve important functions within our community, restoration of eligibility requirements would serve to insure that these positions are filled by persons who hold minimum qualifications for public office.

Action requested: *Adoption of the proposed ordinance would restore the prior qualifications for serving on a Rollingwood board or commission - that being the same requirements as required of a candidate for election to the City Council.*

Resources:

TEXAS STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE IN TYPE A CITY

Eligibility to run for office:

To run for office in a general law city in Texas, you must, among other requirements:

Citizenship: be a citizen of the United States;

Age: be at least 18 years old on the date of the election; and

Registered voter: be a registered voter (see below)

Residency in state and city: have lived in the State of Texas for at least 12 consecutive months prior to the filing date for the election, and in your city or ward for at least 6 months prior to the filing date for the election.

Not disqualified: Not a felon and not adjudicated incompetent Texas

Election Code Section 141.001. See also:

<https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/1249/FINAL-2019-A-Guide-to-Becoming-a-City-Official>

