

City of Sedgwick
City Council Meeting
August 6, 2025

TO: Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Charter Ordinance No. 32

INITIATED BY: Administration

AGENDA: New Business

Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of Charter Ordinance No. 32.

Background: Charter Ordinance No. 32 is an ordinance that would exempt the city from K.S.A 15-204, as amended, relating to the appointment of city officers, and provide substitute and additional provisions on the same subject. In 2019, the City of Sedgwick passed Ordinance No. 865 which stated that the position of the City Administrator was to oversee the appointment, hiring and discharge of all employees of the City of Sedgwick, Kansas. This was done to increase efficiency in the daily operations of the city but did not fully address the removal of the requirements of K.S.A 15-204. By adopting Charter Ordinance No. 32, we would fully correct the oversight of 2019.

Analysis: The City of Sedgwick is classified as a city of the third class. As such, we are grouped with municipalities of smaller size and composition; many of which do not have a professional administrator overseeing the daily operations of the city. In these smaller municipalities, the Mayor would be the overseeing figure and hire and discharge all employees. As we strive to be as efficient as possible, it is imperative that the oversight of employees stay in the position that has daily interactions with said employees. If approved, the discharge of department heads would be run through the City Council for informational purposes prior to their termination. This process mirrors what is in place for department heads wishing to terminate an employee, as they must bring all the relevant information before the City Administrator prior to termination of the employee in question.

Financial Considerations: None.

Recommendations/Actions: It is recommended that the City Council approve Charter Ordinance No. 32 as presented.

Attachments: Charter Ordinance No. 32 draft

THE CITY OF SEDGWICK, KANSAS

CHARTER ORDINANCE NO.32

A CHARTER ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SEDGWICK, KANSAS, EXEMPTING THE CITY FROM K.S.A. 15-204, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF CITY OFFICERS, AND PROVIDING SUBSTITUTE AND ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEDGWICK, KANSAS:

SECTION 1: The City of Sedgwick, by the power vested in it by Article 12, Section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, hereby elects to exempt itself from the provisions of K.S.A. 15-204, as amended, which enactment applies to this city but does not apply uniformly to all cities, presently providing for the timing of appointments, the manner of appointment, and term of office for the City of Sedgwick Kansas officers appointed as a municipal judge of the municipal court, a clerk, a treasurer, a marshal-chief of police, law enforcement officers, and such other officers as deemed necessary.

SECTION 2: The following is hereby substituted for that portion of K.S.A. 15-204 which provides for the appointment, duties, and removal of city officers and the Code of the City of Sedgwick Section 1-301, 1-302, and 1-303 are hereby amended as follows regarding the same:

1-301. Appointment.

The Mayor, by and with the consent of the council, shall appoint a city attorney and judge of the municipal court. Such officers shall hold their respective offices for an indefinite term. All such appointments shall be entered on the journal of proceedings of the council. The duties and salaries of all appointed officers shall be fixed by ordinance.

1-302. Department heads and employees; appointment and removal.

The city administrator shall:

- (a) Appoint all city department heads, including the city clerk, the chief of police the public works director, the fire chief and other such department heads as deemed necessary. The department head positions appointed by the city administrator are "Employees at Will." Department heads may be terminated at any time by the City Administrator provided that the City Administrator must first inform and obtain advice from the Governing Body regarding the intent to terminate such department head prior to their termination.
- (b) The city administrator shall have the authority to hire and terminate all other employees.

1-303. Removal.

- (a) A majority of all members of the governing body may remove any officer appointed pursuant to Section 1-301.
- (b) For good cause, the mayor may suspend any officer appointed pursuant to Section 1-301, and such officer may be removed with the consent of council.

SECTION 3: The City may enact, by ordinary ordinance, amendments to its City Code to substitute additional provisions related to the subject herein.

SECTION 4: This Charter Ordinance shall be published in its entirety once a week for (2) consecutive weeks in the official City Newspaper

SECTION 5: This Charter Ordinance shall take effect 61 days after final publication unless a sufficient petition for a referendum is filed and a referendum held on the Charter Ordinance as provided in Article 12, Section 5, subsection (c)(3) of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, in which case this Charter Ordinance shall become effective if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

ADOPTED by the Governing body of the City of Sedgwick, Kansas, not less than two-thirds of the voting members elect voting in favor thereof, on this 6th day of August, 2025.

Bryan Chapman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shelia Agee, City Clerk