



Memorandum

To: Mayor Nelson and Members of the City Council

From: Daniel R. Buchholtz, MMC, Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer

Date: October 12, 2023

Subject: Write-In Ballot Counting Resolution

In previous elections, the City was required to count the votes of all write-in candidates for local elections. This is a time consuming process that has no impact on the election results. Many times, these votes will be for a fictional character (Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, etc) or a random resident.

The proposed resolution allows the City to take advantage of a change in State Law that allows the City to conform its process to match write-in votes for Federal, State and County elections. A candidate who is running a write-in campaign can file a request with the Administrator, Clerk/Treasurer that he/she wishes to have their votes counted. That request must be filed seven days before the election. Upon receiving that request, staff will only count write-in ballots with that candidate's name on it. If the City does not receive a request from a candidate, staff will only document the total number of write-in votes.

Staff recommends approval of the proposed resolution.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 763-784-6491.