

COUNCIL ACTION FORM

Meeting Date: December 18, 2025

Staff Contact: Abby Schneweis, City Clerk

Agenda Item: Consider adopting Charter Ordinance No. 20, designating the City's Website as the official newspaper.

Background / Description of Item:

K.S.A. 12-1651(a) requires cities of the second and third class to designate an official city newspaper for the publication of official city business, provided the newspaper meets the qualifications set forth in K.S.A. 12-1651(b). However, under the home rule provisions of the Kansas Constitution (Kan. Const. Art. 12, § 5), cities may exempt themselves from nonuniform acts of the legislature by adopting a charter ordinance.

Staff Comments:

Currently, all city ordinances are published in *The Legal Record*. Charter Ordinance No. 20 designates the City's official website as the official city newspaper, thereby exempting the city from the requirements of K.S.A. 12-1651.

Adoption of Charter Ordinance No. 20 allows the city to post ordinances on its website to satisfy statutory publication requirements, rather than in a print newspaper. Notices subject to publication include, but are not limited to:

- Budget hearings
- Financial notices
- Legal notices

Notices that are required by law to be published in a newspaper of general circulation will continue to be published in a newspaper designated by resolution, beginning sixty-one (61) days after the charter ordinance is published.

Staff estimates that the adoption of Charter Ordinance No. 20 will result in annual savings of several hundred dollars in publication costs.

If adopted, Charter Ordinance No. 20 must be published in *The Legal Record* once per week for two consecutive weeks. It will take effect on the sixty-first (61st) day following the final publication.

Staff Recommendation: Consider adopting Charter Ordinance No. 20

Suggested Motion:

I move to adopt Charter Ordinance No. 20, designating the city website as the official newspaper.