

## **COUNCIL ELECTION DATE CHANGE**

A public hearing was conducted to receive citizen comment regarding the proposal to change the date of City Council elections from odd year November elections to even year November elections.

The following person commented regarding the proposed election date change:

Tom Manke, business owner at 118 South Washington Street, inquired why the Council elections were originally scheduled for November odd years in the first place. City Clerk Kirkland indicated over time Council elections had been held at various times throughout the year and numerous changes to the schedule had been made but she was unsure of the impetus for the changes.

Councilperson Fox inquired whether the proposed change would amount to a Charter amendment. It was noted it would not.

Motion by Councilperson Fox to approve the following resolution authorizing the shift of City Council elections from November in odd years to November in even years as follows:

### **RESOLUTION NO. 57-2014**

#### **ESTABLISHING REGULAR ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER OF EACH EVEN YEAR COMMENCING WITH THE CITY ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 2016**

WHEREAS, the City of Owosso currently holds elections for City Council members in November of odd years; and

WHEREAS, participation in odd year November elections has waned significantly in recent times; and

WHEREAS, the cost of holding elections continues to grow in spite of decreasing voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Election Code MCL § 168.642(a)(4), as amended by PA 523 of 2012, authorizes the governing body of a city that holds elections for city officers at odd-year November elections to change its regular election schedule to even-year November elections by the adoption of a resolution in compliance with the requirements of section 642 of the Michigan Election Code (MCL § 168.642); and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid law provides that the terms of the City's current elected and appointed Council members not be shortened and that the terms for elected city offices continue until successors are elected and qualified starting with the November 2016 election; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing required by the aforesaid law has been conducted pursuant to the published notice and all interested parties have been heard; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OWOSSO CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. The date of the regular city election is changed from the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each odd-numbered year to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even numbered year commencing with the regular city election in November 2016, resulting in the last city regular odd-year November election being held on November 5, 2013.
2. The term of the three (3) council members duly elected to four-year terms at the odd-year November election in 2013, which would otherwise expire in November 2017, shall continue until their successors are elected and qualified in November 2018.
3. The terms of the three (3) council members duly elected to four-year terms at the odd-year November election in 2011, which would otherwise expire in November 2015, shall continue until their successors are elected and qualified in November 2016.

4. The term of the council member duly elected to a two-year term at the odd-year November election in 2013, which would otherwise expire in November 2015, shall continue until their successor is elected and qualified in November 2016.
5. The terms of the Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem, which would otherwise expire in November 2015, shall continue until their successors are selected by their peers in November 2016.
6. The city clerk is hereby instructed to file this resolution with the County Clerk of Shiawassee County and the elections division of the Secretary of State of the State of Michigan.


Motion supported by Councilperson Greenway.

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilpersons Bandkau, Bailey, Teich, Fox, Greenway, Mayor Pro-Tem Eveleth, and Mayor Frederick.

NAYS: None.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing document is a true and complete copy of action taken by the Owosso City Council at the regular meeting of May 19, 2014.*

  
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Amy K. Kirkland, City Clerk

