

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **September 14, 2021**

AGENDA ITEM #: **3**

CONSENT:
ACTION: **X**

REGULAR:
INFORMATION:

WORK SESSION: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:
(Confidential)

ITEM TITLE: City Council Elections Date – Ordinance Options

KEY ELEMENTS:

Economic Development Excellent Government Natural and Built Environment Safe Community Vibrant Community

RECOMMENDATION: Provide feedback on options to revise City Council election dates.

SUMMARY: Prior to the 2021 General Assembly session, the City was permitted to conduct local elections in May, rather than in November when most other elections occur. For many years, this has been the City's practice. However, the 2021 General Assembly passed legislation that would require the City, and all other local governments in Virginia, to hold local elections in November. This legislation requires that City Council adopt an ordinance changing local elections from May to November.

The City Attorney will present two options for this change and City Council is requested to provide feedback regarding these options, or another third option as Council may prescribe.

PRIOR ACTION(S): n/a

FISCAL IMPACT: n/a

CONTACT(S): Matthew Freedman, City Attorney, 455-3976

ATTACHMENT(S):

- Ordinance Options 1 and 2

REVIEWED BY: raw

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OPTION NO. 1

Sec. 2-16. How composed; how and when elected; terms of office; vacancies.

(a) The council of the city shall consist of one body, composed of seven members who are citizens, all electors, over 21 years of age, to be elected at a general election held in November. Four members of such council shall be elected from wards and three members of such council shall be elected at large.

(b) At a general election to be held in November 2022, three members of such council shall be elected to serve terms of four years. At a general election to be held in November 2024, four members of such council shall be elected for terms of four years. Thereafter, biennially, there shall be elected alternately three or four members of such council, as the case may be, for terms of four years. The terms of the members of the council shall begin on January 1 following their election. Members of the council who were elected at a May general election and whose terms are to expire as of June 30 shall continue in office until their successors have been elected and qualified to serve.

(c) The four members of such council elected from the wards shall be elected respectively therefrom and registered voters therewith with one member being elected from each ward.

(d) If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the council, the majority of the remaining members, respectively, within 45 days of such office becoming vacant, may appoint a qualified elector to fill the vacancy. If the vacancy occurs in a ward, the successor chosen must be a registered voter of that ward. The person so appointed shall hold such office until his successor is elected and has qualified to serve in accordance with state law.

OPTION NO. 2

Sec. 2-16. How composed; how and when elected; terms of office; vacancies.

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