

RESOLUTION NO. 2020-015

A RESOLUTION SETTING FORTH THE PROCEDURE FOR THE TRANSITION FROM THE ALDERMANIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT TO THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF GOVERNMENT; STATING THE DATES FOR CANDIDATE FILINGS AND ELECTIONS; CLARIFYING THE VOTING PROCEDURE; AND FORMING A POLICY FOR THE FILLING OF SEATS ON THE NEWLY FORMED CITY COUNCIL.

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2019 the citizens of the City of Watonga voted to approve the transition in the form of government for the City of Watonga from an aldermanic form of government to a council-manager form of government; and

WHEREAS, the current City Council has worked diligently to prepare for the transition in the form of government by hiring an interim city manager and conducting research into the proper procedure to follow for the transition in the form of government; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to make clear to the Citizens of Watonga the process of the first election of the new form of government and the appropriate transition to the new form of government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF WATONGA, OKLAHOMA:

Section 1. In December of 2020, the City Council will approve the documents required by the Blaine County Election Board to call for an election for five (5) city council members. The election called for will be to elect one (1) council member from Ward 1 and one (1) council member from Ward 2 for a term of four (4) years. The City will also call for the election of one (1) council member from Ward 3, one (1) council member from Ward 4, and one (1) council member elected from the City at large for a term of two (2) years. After the initial election is completed and all members of the newly formed City Council are seated, all elections will be held for a term of four (4) years.

Section 2. Pursuant to the terms of 11 O.S. § 16-104, all city council positions will voted on by all of the citizens of the City of Watonga at large.

Section 3. According to the currently published election calendar, the filing period for the City Council positions to be elected will begin February 2, 2021 and will end on February 3, 2021.

Section 4. According to the currently published election calendar, a general election for the City Council positions will be held on April 6, 2021.

Section 5. At the first scheduled City Council meeting held after the certification of results from the April 6, 2021 election, those City Council member who were elected or who ran

unopposed will be sworn into office and the form of government for the City of Watonga will official transition to a Council-Manager form of government.

Section 6. In the event that runoff elections are needed to elect a new City Council member, it is recommended that the newly elected City Council members appoint the City Council member from the corresponding Ward under the Aldermanic form of government whose term has yet to expire to fill the seat until the winner of the runoff election can be determined. If the runoff required is for the at large member to be elected, it is recommended that the newly elected City Council members appoint the current Mayor under the Aldermanic form of government to fill the seat until the winner of the runoff can be determined.

Section 7. According to the currently published election calendar, a runoff election, if necessary, will be held on June 8, 2021.

Section 8. If runoff elections are required, the City Council members elected in said runoff election will be sworn in and seated at the first City Council meeting after the results of the runoff election are certified.

Section 9. At the first meeting of all of the newly elected City Council members, the City Council members will choose from amongst themselves the mayor and the vice mayor. The mayor and vice mayor shall serve in these capacities until the next City Council election, after which the newly seated City Council will again select a mayor and vice mayor. In the event a runoff election is necessary for the April 2021 general election, an interim mayor will be selected from amongst the City Council assembled to serve until the newly elected City Council can select a mayor and vice mayor for the remainder of the term.

Section 10. All dates for elections and filing periods are subject to change by the Oklahoma State Election Board.

APPROVED in an open meeting on this 17th day of November, 2020.

Gary Olsen, Mayor

(Seal)
ATTEST:

Verlen Bills, City Clerk

APPROVED:

Jared Harrison, City Attorney