



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading Ordinance for August 10, 2021
Second Reading Ordinance for August 17, 2021

DATE: July 12, 2021
TO: Mayor & City Council
FROM: Rebecca L. Huerta, City Secretary
RebeccaH@cctexas.com
361-826-3105

Ordinance Adopting Procedure to Terminate Inactive Campaign Treasurer Appointments

CAPTION:

Ordinance adopting the procedure to terminate the campaign treasurer appointment of an inactive candidate or inactive specific-purpose political committee in accordance with Texas Election Code Section 252.0131; and amending the City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 2, Administration, with addition of new Section 2-7.

SUMMARY:

Candidates for mayor and city council and specific-purpose political committees are required to file campaign treasurer appointments with the City Secretary (Sections 252.005(3) and 252.006, 252.007(3), Texas Election Code, respectively). Pursuant to Section 252.011(b), Texas Election Code, a campaign treasurer appointment continues in effect until terminated. To terminate a campaign treasurer appointment, a candidate must file a final report; a specific-purpose political committee must notify the filing authority, in writing, of the termination or file a dissolution report.

Currently, the City Secretary's Office has on file numerous campaign treasurer appointments for inactive candidates and specific-purpose political committees for which neither a final report nor a written termination or dissolution report have been filed, respectively. Maintaining these inactive records places an administrative burden on the City Secretary's Office. The Texas Election Code sets out a process by which such campaign treasurer appointments may be terminated, which requires a vote of the City Council in a regularly scheduled city council meeting.

This proposed Ordinance defines the procedure by which the campaign treasurer appointments of inactive candidates and specific-purpose political committees may be terminated.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

Before campaign contributions may be accepted or campaign expenditures may be made by a candidate or specific-purpose political committee, a campaign treasurer appointment must be filed. If a candidate is seeking an office of a political subdivision other than a county, the appropriate filing authority for the campaign treasurer appointment is the clerk or secretary of the governing body of the political subdivision. If a specific-purpose political committee that supports, opposes, or assists a candidate for or holder of an office of a political subdivision other than a county or that supports or opposes a measure to be submitted at an election ordered by an authority of a political subdivision other than a county, the appropriate filing authority for the campaign treasurer appointment is the clerk or secretary of the governing body of the political

subdivision.

Section 252.0131 of the Texas Election Code provides that the governing body of a political subdivision, by ordinance or order, may adopt a process by which the clerk or secretary, as applicable, of the political subdivision may terminate the campaign treasurer appointment of an inactive candidate or specific-purpose political committee that is required to file a campaign treasurer appointment with the clerk or secretary.

ALTERNATIVES:

Should the City Council decide to not approve the Ordinance, the campaign treasurer appointments for inactive candidates and specific-purpose political committees will remain on file in the City Secretary's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None

Funding Detail: N/A

Fund: 1020

Organization/Activity: 10020

Mission Element: 714

Project # (CIP Only):

Account:

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance