

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Tom Harmer, Town Manager
From: Trish Shinkle, Town Clerk
Report date: September 28, 2021
Meeting date: November 1, 2021
Subject: Ordinance 2021-17 to Establish the 2022 Election Dates

Recommended Action

Forward Ordinance 2021-17 to the December 6, 2021, Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

Background

Article II, Section 4, of the Town's Charter sets the date for the Town's Preliminary Election as the last Tuesday in January when three or more individuals qualify to run for the same seat, and sets the General Election as the third Tuesday in March. The Charter provides an option to align the Town's elections with any other County administered election.

In conjunction with coordination of dates with both Manatee and Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections offices, Ordinance 2021-17 provides for the date of January 25, 2022, for a Preliminary Election (if required) and March 8, 2022, for the General Election.

Town Code Chapter 36, Elections, provides for establishing early voting in accordance with State law and established procedures. The dates for early voting will be coordinated with the schedules offered by the Supervisor of Elections offices.

Ordinance 2021-17 also provides for ballot presentation and advertising, and seeks Commission consideration and confirmation of the Preliminary and General Municipal Election dates, providing for early voting, ballot presentation, and advertising.

Due to the timeframe for qualifying period and the required notice to the Supervisor of Elections offices in the event a Preliminary Election is required, first reading of Ordinance 2021-17 is necessary prior to the end of the qualifying period on November 15, 2021. If there are not three or more individuals qualified to run for the same Town Commission seat there will be no need to hold the Preliminary Election in January. After the qualifying period ends, the Ordinance will be updated as necessary prior to the December 6th Public Hearing based on the number of qualified candidates per seat.

Staff Recommendation

Forward Ordinance 2021-17 to the December 6, 2021, Regular Meeting for second reading and public hearing.

Attachments

Ordinance 2021-17 (available in the Town Clerk's Office)

End of Agenda Item