



Village Talks

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF WORTHINGTON

Fall 2016 Issue

Charter Amendment Proposal Vote November 8th

Voters in Worthington will consider proposed amendments to the Worthington City Charter when they head to the polls November 8th. The Charter is the “local constitution” and provides the framework for how the City is structured and governed. All the amendments will be voted on as one issue, Issue 44 on the ballot.

Earlier this year, City Council appointed the Charter Review Commission, an 11 member group of highly knowledgeable and experienced Worthington citizens representing a variety of professional and personal backgrounds, community involvement and leadership experience. The Charter Review Commission is convened at least once every 10 years.

The Charter Review Commission reviewed the language in the Charter and made recommendations for a number of changes, which were approved by City Council for placement on the ballot. The Charter Review Commission believes that the proposed changes better reflect current City operations and provide for more efficiency and transparency. No changes are recommended to be made to Issue 38 provisions adopted in 2015.

The detailed Charter Review Commission report, a copy of the amendments showing the proposed changes from the

current Charter, Issue 44 ballot language, and Commission member information are all available to review in full detail on the City’s website at worthington.org/charter. The recommendations are summarized below:

Article II -The Council

Section 2.04 - The Commission members agreed that the salaries currently established for City Council are low, especially in comparison to other jurisdictions in Central Ohio. The Commission proposed a one-time increase for all Council members is warranted, but subsequently no raises should be voted for in-term members. A prohibition on emergency legislation to set the salaries is also included.

Section 2.05 -The recommended change aligns with state law to allow the appointment of a magistrate to conduct court when the Mayor and Vice Mayor are unavailable. This change also indicates the process for electing officers of Council may be included in Council Rules.

Section 2.06 - In order to simplify and bring the process for establishing a salary for the Mayor and Vice-Mayor in line

(CHARTER, Continued p. 2)

Election Day
Tuesday, November 8th
Polls open 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Visit vote/franklincountyohio.gov
for voter information.

City Notes

Sign-up for Worthington’s E-news Updates

The City of Worthington sends out electronic news updates about upcoming events, City initiatives, ongoing projects, development and other important news. Stay engaged and informed by signing up to receive e-news. You can set your preferences about what types of information you would like to receive. You can also choose news to be sent via text message. To sign-up, visit worthington.org and click the “E-News Sign-up” link in the middle of the page.

You can also follow the City on Facebook at facebook.com/worthingtonoh or on Twitter at twitter.com/worthingtonohio.

Leaf Collection

Leaf collection is taking place through the week of December 2nd. In order to make sure your leaves are collected, have them raked to the curb by Monday morning of each collection week.

(CHARTER, continued)

with current budgeting practices, this proposal would allow Council to set the salary by ordinance.

Section 2.07 - The amendment changes the reference to the Architectural Review Board, from the Board of Architectural Review. Also, a change was made to refer to 'exempt' officers as 'unclassified' officers.

Section 2.17 and 2.18 - The current Charter language requires the full reading of an ordinance title when it is introduced and when it is up for public hearing. The proposal would allow for an abbreviated title reading for publication in the required newspaper advertisement and/or electronically.

Section 2.19 - The City is required, on an annual basis, to pass an ordinance and provide it to Franklin County authorizing the annual tax levies imposed upon Worthington property owners. The submission of the annual tax budget is a requirement of the Ohio Revised Code. In order to streamline processes to meet state required deadlines, the proposed language would allow for this ordinance to become effective upon passage and publication.

There was an additional recommendation to cross reference the Issue 38 Charter amendment in Section 1.04 as an exception to all other ordinances that would become effective 20 days following passage and publication.

Article IV - Finance

Article V -Taxation and Borrowing

Section 4.10 - The recommended change addresses the way the City administers purchasing. Because the purchasing function may change from time to time, instead of requiring that function to rest in a single department, the recommended language was broadened to simply allow for City Council to establish the manner in which the City performs it. Our administrative code would be the appropriate section to establish that process.

Section 4.11 - The Charter requires open competitive bidding for the purchase of supplies, materials and equipment and the construction of public improvements. In 2012, the State legislature allowed for public entities to utilize a variety of purchasing methods in addition to competitive bidding. In order to afford the City the ability to take advantage of the State amendments and to tailor its purchases in the most effective manner, the amendment would allow purchases by any method authorized by the State for public entities.

Sections 4.13, 4.14, 5.04 and 5.05 - These changes would bring the Charter into conformance with State-authorized changes to the nomenclature and processes of the Ohio Uniform Public Securities Act.

Article VI -Boards and Commissions

Section 6.03 - The proposal requires the Municipal Planning Commission to articulate the basis of a decision and how that decision relates to the overall comprehensive planning goals of the City.

Section 6.05 - The authorization granted to the Board of Zoning Appeals in approving variances is proposed to be made consistent with the language in our Code.

Article VII -Nominations and Elections

Section 7.03 - This section sets the requirements for candidates to the office of City Council when submitting petitions. This amendment would eliminate the maximum number of signatures, which is already identified in Ohio Revised Code.

Article IX -General Provisions

Section 9.01 - This section adds the City Manager or the City Manager's designee as eligible to administer the City's oath of office.

Article X -Transitional Provisions

Section 10.07 - This amendment would delete this section about when amendments to the Charter take effect, because they automatically take effect when passed and certified or on the date provided in the ordinance.

Article XI -Merit System

Section 11.02 - This proposal would remove elected and appointed officials from the list of 'exempt' positions on the basis that the Charter separately provides for the election, appointment and removal of people in these positions. The proposal also includes changing the reference from 'exempt' positions to 'classified' and 'unclassified' positions, to conform to general statutory references and to help differentiate these employees from those who may be 'exempt' under the Fair Labor Standards Act for overtime purposes, unrelated to the merit system.

Section 11.03 - One of the enumerated duties in this section for the Personnel Director is to "certify the payroll." This is no longer a function of the Personnel Director and instead lies with the Finance Director. The amendment would eliminate this duty for the Personnel Director.

Political Signs

What You Need to Know

With the election season upon us, the City of Worthington is reminding residents of the regulations relating to the placement of political signs in the City of Worthington. Worthington Ordinances require that political signs be placed on private property outside of the public right-of-way. In typical neighborhoods, the right-of-way line is located one (1) foot behind the public sidewalk. In non-typical locations, the right-of-way line can be identified on the Worthington GIS mapping system available online at worthington.org/gis.

City zoning enforcement staff will be making regular surveys during the election season. If signs are found in the right-of-way that appear to be related to a residential property the sign will be relocated on to the property, out of the right-of-way with a message attached. If signs are found in the right-of-way that are not related to a residential property or are in front of public property, the signs will be removed. Removed signs will be stored at the Department of Planning & Building, 374 Highland Avenue and will be available for pickup 7:30 am to 4:30 pm Mon-Fri.

City Ordinance requires political signs be removed entirely within one week after the election. For more information, please call (614) 431-2424.



Halloween - Trick-or-Treat

Monday, October 31st -6pm-8pm

Trick-or-Treat takes place on Halloween, rain or shine and will not be cancelled or postponed in the event of inclement weather. Parents are urged to use sound judgment and common sense when considering whether to send their children outside. Find more Halloween safety tips on the worthington.org events calendar.

Special Events



Indoor Winter Farmers Market

Every Saturday, November through April, from 9am-Noon at the Shops at Worthington Place. Note: There will be no Farmers Market the Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 26th, and on Christmas Eve, December 24th.

Prescription Drug Drop-Off

Saturday, October 22nd - 10am-2pm

Drive through to drop off your old prescription drugs at the Worthington Police Department, 6555 Worthington Galena Road for National Drug Take-Back Day. Only pills will be accepted. No syringes, liquids or creams. Call the Division of Police at (614) 885-4463 for more information.

Holiday Open House and Tree Lighting

Sunday, November 27

Noon - 5:30pm Old Worthington Open House

5:30pm - Tree lighting ceremony begins on the southeast corner of the Village Green. Call (614) 436-2743 for information.

Municipal Offices Holiday Hours

City of Worthington municipal offices will be closed:

- November 11th for Veterans Day.
- November 24th and 25th for the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Beginning at Noon on Friday, December 23rd through Monday, December 26th.
- Beginning at Noon on Friday, December 30th through Monday, January 2nd.

Community Center Holiday Hours

- Open regular hours on Veterans Day
- Thanksgiving, 8am to 2pm
- Christmas Eve, 8am to 2pm
- Christmas Day, CLOSED
- New Years Eve, 8am to 2pm
- New Years Day, 10am to 6pm

Holiday Trash Pick up

- Trash collection will change to Saturday during the holiday week of Thanksgiving (11/26)
- Trash collection will not change for Christmas and New Years. It will remain on Friday December 23rd and Friday December 30th.

Visit worthington.org for complete information.

Contact Us

LOUIS J.R. GOOREY MUNICIPAL BUILDING
436-3100 – 6550 N. High St.
City Manager's office, City Clerk, Economic
Development, Mayor's Court, Finance,
Personnel, Public Information

LAW DEPARTMENT

436-7429 – 370 Highland Ave.

PARKS & RECREATION

436-2743 – 345 E. Wilson Bridge Rd.
Community Center, recreation programs,
park maintenance, street tree program

GRISWOLD CENTER

842-6320 – 777 High St.
Recreation Programs for 55 and older

SERVICE & ENGINEERING

431-2425 – 380 Highland Ave.
Trash collection, recycling, yard waste, sewers,
maintenance, Capital Improvement Projects

PLANNING & BUILDING

431-2424 – 374 Highland Ave.
Land use planning, zoning and building
regulation

DIVISION OF POLICE

885-4463 – 6555 Worthington Galena Rd.

DIVISION OF FIRE & EMS

885-7640 – 6500 N. High St.
CPR classes, public education, fire inspection

www.worthington.org

www.businessworthington.org

www.facebook.com/worthingtonoh

www.twitter.com/worthingtonohio



PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
WORTHINGTON OH
PERMIT NO 155-W



ALERT
Emergency Notification System

Franklin
County



Sign up for Emergency Alerts - AlertFranklinCounty.com

The City of Worthington is now partnering with Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security to bring a new emergency notification and warning system to its residents. ALERT Franklin County is customizable and allows you to choose what kind of community notifications you want to receive, how you would like to receive them and the location you want to receive them for. You can elect to receive emergency notifications about severe weather and disasters, as well as Worthington specific information regarding crime alerts, road closures, transportation incidents, utility outages, government closings and other important community news.

The City of Worthington previously contracted with CodeRed for emergency notifications. If you signed up to receive notifications through CodeRed, your contact information will transfer over to the new ALERT Franklin County system.

To register for ALERT Franklin County notifications, visit AlertFranklinCounty.com and click on the registration link. You will then be prompted to select which categories you'd like to receive information about, including Worthington specific information. You can receive the alerts via email, phone call, or text message.