

CITY OF UNALASKA
UNALASKA, ALASKA

ORDINANCE 2021-14

AN ORDINANCE OF THE UNALASKA CITY COUNCIL AMENDING UNALASKA CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 4, CITY ELECTIONS, TO ESTABLISH THAT WAGES OF NON-EMPLOYEE ELECTION JUDGES AND CLERKS SHALL BE DETERMINED BY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, AND TO ALLOW CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION RESULTS AT EITHER A REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF UNALASKA, as follows:

Section 1: Classification. This Ordinance is a Code Ordinance.

Section 2: AMENDMENT OF TITLE 4.04.050 EXPENSES. Section 4.04.050 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [New language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~everstruck~~.]

§ 4.04.050 EXPENSES

The city shall pay all necessary election expenses, including those of securing places for polls and providing ballot boxes, ballots, voting booths, screens, national and state flags and other supplies, and any wages due election judges and clerks. ~~Salaries for non-employee election judges and clerks shall be \$10.00 per hour.~~ Wages for non-employee election judges and clerks shall be established by resolution of the city council. However, all expenses of making a recount pursuant to an election contest shall be paid by the candidate or voters contesting the election if the recount fails to reverse a result of the election or the difference between the winning and losing vote on the result contested is more than two percent. If the recount is obtained by voters, each of them shall be individually liable for the whole amount of such expenses.

Section 3: Amendment of Title 4.28.060 RESULTS OF ELECTION. Section 4.28.060 of the Unalaska Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows: [New language is underlined; and deleted language is ~~everstruck~~.]

§ 4.28.060 RESULTS OF ELECTION

- (A) If a contest is not begun pursuant to Chapter 4.36, the results of the election shall be publicly declared by the City Council and entered in the minutes of a regular or special meeting of the City Council on the first Tuesday following the election.
- (B) If a contest is declared and resolved, the result of the election shall be publicly declared by the City Council and entered in the minutes of a regular or special meeting of the City Council within a week after the contest is resolved.

Section 3: Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a duly constituted quorum of the Unalaska City Council on August 10, 2021.

Vincent M. Tutiakoff, Sr.
Mayor

ATTEST:

Marjie Veeder, CMC
City Clerk

MEMORANDUM TO COUNCIL

To: Mayor and City Council Members
From: Marjie Veeder, City Clerk
Through: Erin Reinders, City Manager
Date: July 27, 2021
Re: Ordinance 2021-14: Amending Chapter 4, City Elections, to establish that wages of non-employee Election Judges and Clerks shall be determined by council resolution, and to allow certification of election results at either a regular or a special meeting

SUMMARY: Ordinance 2021-14 will make two small changes to code dealing with city elections. Code presently sets out an hourly rate for non-employee election workers at \$10 per hour. This rate is low in comparison to election worker pay in other jurisdictions and any increase in this rate requires a code change. It makes sense to set the rate by council resolution which can be done in the same resolution appointing election judges and clerks each year. Secondly, Ordinance 2021-14 allows for certification of election results at either a regular or special meeting. Code presently dictates that certification occur at a special meeting. Staff recommends approval.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION: The particular sections of code contained in Ordinance 2021-14 were last amended in 2001 when Title 4 was rewritten in the entirety.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

Election worker wages: Code presently sets out an hourly rate for non-employee election workers at \$10 per hour. This rate is low in comparison to election worker pay in other jurisdictions and any increase in this rate requires a code change. A survey of other jurisdictions shows pay for election workers ranging from \$12-\$20 per hour depending on duties. In some jurisdictions council sets the wage; and in others, it is determined by the City Clerk. It makes sense to set the rate by council resolution, which can be done in the same resolution appointing election judges and clerks each year.

Certification of election results: Code presently dictates that certification of election results is to occur at a “special meeting” of the council on the first Tuesday following the election. Local general elections are held the first Tuesday in October, with the canvass committee meeting scheduled on Friday of the same week. With a regular council meeting scheduled on the second Tuesday in November, certification of election results can take place at a regular meeting, without the need to schedule a special meeting for the same evening for the sole purpose of certifying election results. Allowing the results to be certified at a regular or special meeting will simplify the process.

ALTERNATIVES: Council may choose to adopt Ordinance 2021-14 or not; and may amend the ordinance before final adoption.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: A slight increase in election worker wages is anticipated. A slight decrease in council stipends paid will result if election results are certified at a regular meeting

rather than a special meeting because council members are paid an additional stipend for special meetings.

LEGAL: The City Attorney reviewed and approved Ordinance 2021-14.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends adoption of Ordinance 2021-14.

PROPOSED MOTION: I move to schedule Ordinance 2021-14 for public hearing, second reading and adoption on August 10, 2021.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS: I support staff's recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS: None.