ORDINANCE NO. 2020-12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 2.06 AND 4.02 OF THE MINNETONKA CITY CHARTER, REGARDING ELECTIONS; REQUIRING USE OF RANKED CHOICE VOTING; ELIMINATING USE OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS

The City of Minnetonka Ordains:

Section 1. Preamble. The city council adopts this ordinance pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 410.12, subdivision 5.

Section 2. Section 2.06, subdivision 5 of the Minnetonka city charter, relating to special elections to fill vacancies in the city council, is amended to read as follows:

Subd. 5. Special Election Requirements.

a. Except as provided in subdivision 5.b. below, special elections must be held at the earliest date possible under state law. Candidates must file for office no later than four weeks before the election.

b. If a special election occurs in the same year as a regular municipal election, the council may at its option schedule the special election to occur in conjunction with the regular municipal election rather than at the earliest possible date under state law.

Section 3. Section 4.02 of the Minnetonka city charter is amended to read as follows:

Section 4.02. Method of election.

The voters shall elect the mayor and council members by the method of Single Transferable Vote, also known as Ranked Choice Voting or Instant Runoff voting. The city council must provide by ordinance the ballot format and the rules for counting the votes and breaking a tie.

Section 4. The city clerk is directed to submit this ordinance to the charter commission for its review, as provided by law.

Section 5. The council hereby reserves its discretion to determine, after receiving the charter commission’s recommendation, whether to submit this charter amendment to the voters at a general or special election or whether instead to rescind this ordinance.

Section 6. This ordinance and the charter amendments herein shall not take effect until 30 days after approved by 51 percent of the votes cast at a general or special election as determined by the city council.

The stricken language is deleted; the underlined language is inserted.
Adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on June 8, 2020.

Brad Wiersum, Mayor

ATTEST:

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

ACTION ON THIS ORDINANCE:

Date of introduction: May 18, 2020
Date of adoption: June 8, 2020
Motion for adoption: Kirk
Seconded by: Carter
Voted in favor of: Carter-Calvert-Schaeppi-Coakley-Kirk-Schack-Wiersum
Voted against: None
Abstained: None
Absent: None
Ordinance adopted.

Date of publication:

CERTIFIED COPY:

I certify that the foregoing is a correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on June 8, 2020.

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Date: ________________________________
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2020-12

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on June 8, 2020, the Minnetonka City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2020-12, “An Ordinance amending Sections 2.06 and 4.02 of the Minnetonka City Charter, regarding elections; requiring the use of ranked choice voting; eliminating the use of primary elections” (“the Ordinance”). The Ordinance requires that the mayor and council members be elected by the use of the ranked choice voting method and eliminates the use of primary elections for municipal regular and special elections. The ordinance requires that the Minnetonka charter commission review the ordinance as required by law and report back to the city council. The ordinance reserves the city council’s right, upon receipt of the charter commission’s report, to either submit the issue to the voters at an election or to rescind the ordinance. The ordinance will not become effective until 30 days after it is approved by 51 percent of the votes cast at a general or special election as determined by the city council.

A full copy of the Ordinance is available on the city’s website (www.minnetonkamn.gov). A copy may also be obtained by standard or electronic mail by contacting the city clerk at 952-939-8200 or bkoosman@minnetonkamn.gov.

Becky Koosman, City Clerk