

Introduced by: Mayor Cleworth
Date: June 10, 2013

ORDINANCE NO. 5920

**AN ORDINANCE TO PLACE BEFORE THE VOTERS THE
QUESTION OF AMENDING CHARTER SECTION 11.1, ANNUAL
ELECTIONS: TIME**

WHEREAS, Charter Section 11.1 states that the regular city election shall be held annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in October, or on such other date as may be fixed by ordinance; and

WHEREAS, holding the City's regular election on the same date as the Fairbanks North Star Borough's and the City of North Pole's election would be more convenient for local voters, would likely increase voter turnout, and would save the City time and expense; and

WHEREAS, the Fairbanks North Star Borough Code of Ordinances 2.12.040, Election times, states that "Annually, on the first Tuesday of October, a regular election shall be held in the borough for the election of vacant borough offices, and for the determination of other matters as may be placed on the ballot"; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole City Charter, Chapter 10, Section 10.1 states "The regular City elections shall be held annually on the first Tuesday in October or such other date as the Council may provide in the Code. The date of holding regular City elections may not be changed by the Council at any time less than one year prior to the date of the first regular City election affected"; and

WHEREAS, in order to hold the general election in conjunction with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the City of North Pole, the City has, in some years, been required to adopt an ordinance to change the date of the regular election; and

WHEREAS, before any deviations to election procedures or processes can occur within the state of Alaska, the Municipal City Clerk is required to request special permission from the U.S. Department of Justice which can take as long as six weeks to receive approval; and

WHEREAS, City residents should be given the option to change the election date for the reasons stated above;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, as follows:**

Section 1. The City Clerk is directed to put the following question on the ballot for the voters of the City of Fairbanks at the 2013 general election:

Ballot Question No ____:

INFORMATION: The City of Fairbanks, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and the City of North Pole try to hold the regular municipal election in conjunction each year to make it more convenient for local voters, to increase voter turnout, and to save time and expense for the municipalities. The City of Fairbanks Charter requires that the municipal election be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in October, while the other two municipalities hold elections always on the first Tuesday of October. This will occasionally cause a conflict.

Shall the City adopt the same regular municipal election date as that of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the City of North Pole to ensure they are held in conjunction and change the Charter to reflect the following [with deleted text in ~~strikeout font~~]:

Home Rule Charter, Article XI. - Elections

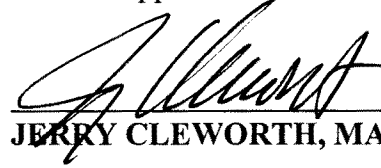
Sec. 11.1. - Annual elections: Time.

The regular city elections shall be held annually on the first Tuesday ~~after the first Monday in~~ of October, or on such other date as may be fixed by ordinance.

YES _____

NO _____

Section 2. This ordinance was passed by this Council on the 29th day of June 2013, but no change will become effective unless and until the question is approved by the voters of the City of Fairbanks.

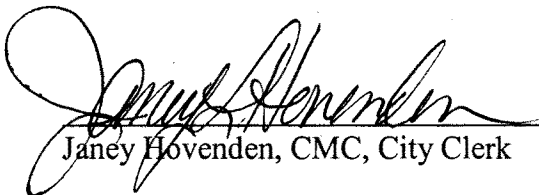


JERRY CLEWORTH, MAYOR

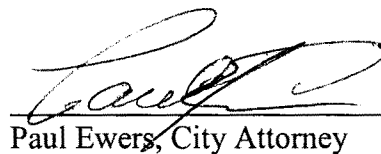
AYES: Staley, Matherly, Gatewood, Hilling, Eberhart, Walley
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
ADOPTED: June 24, 2013

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Janey Hovenden, CMC, City Clerk



Paul Ewers, City Attorney