

BY: Councilmember Grimmer
FIRST READING: January 3, 2024
SECOND READING: January 17, 2024

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, MISSOURI, SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE CITY AT THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE CITY ON APRIL 2, 2024, A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SUBSECTIONS (A) AND (B) OF SECTION 4.02 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, MISSOURI, AS IT RELATES TO THE QUALIFICATIONS AND SELECTION OF THE MUNICIPAL JUDGE.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VI, Section 20 of the Missouri Constitution, amendments to the City’s Charter may be proposed by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, On August 8, 2021, the Mayor with the Consent of the City Council, appointed the members of the Charter Review Commission (the “Commission”) whose task was to review and study the Charter, and make recommendations to the Mayor and City Council of any amendments deemed necessary or expedient to the good governance of the City; and

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2022, the Commission presented to the Mayor and City Council its Final Recommendation Report, dated June 7, 2022 (the “Recommendation Report”), recommending amendments to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, having analyzed the Recommendation Report, the City Council desires to submit to the qualified voters of the City a proposed amendment to the City Charter to amend the qualifications and manner of selection of the municipal judge.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRIDGETON, MISSOURI, AS FOLLOWS:

Section One. That the following proposition shall be placed on the ballot and submitted to the qualified voters of the City at the General Municipal Election to be held on the 2nd day of April 2024:

PROPOSITION C

Shall Subsections (A) and (B) of Section 4.02 of the City Charter of the City of Bridgeton be amended to provide for the appointment of the municipal judge by the mayor with concurrence by a majority of the City Council, and to remove residency as a qualification for, the office of Municipal Judge for the City of Bridgeton, as set forth in Section Two of Ordinance No. 24-07

 Yes No

If you are in favor of the question, mark the box opposite "Yes". If you are opposed to the question, mark the box opposite "No".

Section Two. The amendment to Subsections (A) and (B) of Section 4.02 of the Charter of the City of Bridgeton proposed in Section One of this Ordinance shall read, as follows:

SECTION 4.02. Municipal Judge.

A. *Qualifications.* No person shall serve as a municipal judge unless the person is licensed to practice law in the State of Missouri and is qualified to serve as a municipal judge pursuant to the law.

B. *Appointment, Term.* The municipal judge shall be appointed by the Mayor with the approval of a majority of the members of the City Council. Any person appointed municipal judge on or after April 2, 2024, shall serve a term of two (2) years, and until his or her successor is appointed and qualified. There shall be no prohibition against the municipal court judge serving successive terms.

Section Three. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to submit a certified copy of this Ordinance to the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County, Missouri, and shall notify the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County, Missouri, that the City is calling for an election within the City at the municipal general election to be held on the 2nd day of April, 2024, specifying the purpose of the election, the date of the election, the legal notice to be published, and the sample ballot language as set forth in this Ordinance, and to take such other action as may be required so this this election may be lawfully conducted.

Section Four. That said election shall be held and conducted by the Board of Election Commission of St. Louis County, Missouri, and the results thereof canvassed and returned in all respects in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri and the Charter and Ordinances of the City of Bridgeton, Missouri.

Section Five. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its final passage and approval.

Section Six. Savings. Nothing contained in this Ordinance shall in any manner be deemed or construed to alter, modify, supersede, supplant or otherwise nullify any other Ordinance of the City or the requirements thereof whether or not relating to or in manner connected with the subject matter hereof, unless expressly set forth herein.


Section Seven. Severability. If any term, condition, or provision of this Ordinance shall, to any extent, be held to be invalid or unenforceable, the remainder hereof shall be valid in all other respects and continue to be effective and each and every remaining provision hereof shall be valid and shall be enforced to the fullest extent permitted by law, it being the intent of the City Council that it would have enacted this Ordinance without the invalid or unenforceable provisions. In the event of a subsequent change in applicable law so that the provision, which had been held invalid, is no longer invalid, said provision shall thereupon return to full force and effect without further action by the City and shall thereafter be binding.

PASSED THIS 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024

APPROVED THIS 17TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2024


Terry W. Briggs, Mayor

ATTEST:



Karen E. Robinson, MRCC-S/CMC
City Clerk