

Ordinance No.: 526

“To Change the General Election date to November and to Amend Ordinance 515 & 2011-506 An Ordinance Establishing Nonpartisan Election Procedures for General Election for Mayor and City Council and to allow the Mayor and Council Members to serve in their respective capacity until the newly adopted Election Date.”

SECTION 1. Election Method

Pursuant to S.C Code Section 5-15-12 (1976) the Mayor & Council members shall be elected from the municipality at large.

SECTION 2. Terms Of office

The office of the mayor shall be for the term of four years.
The office of council shall be for the term of four years staggered.

SECTION 3. Nonpartisan Election Procedure

All regular and special elections for mayor and council members should be conducted and results will be determined in accordance with the nonpartisan election and run-off election method authorized by Section 5-15-62. (1976).

SECTION 4. Election Commission

All regular and special elections shall be conducted by a Municipal Election Commission composed of three electors who shall be residents of the City appointed by the City Council for terms of six years, staggered so that the terms of one member expires each odd numbered year at least 90 days prior to the regular election. The election commission shall have the powers and duties specified in S.C. Code Section 5-15-100 (1976), and applicable provisions of Title 7 of the S.C. Code.

SECTION 5. Regular election dates and notice

Regular elections for the offices of mayor and members of council shall be held in odd numbered years on the first (1st) Tuesday in November. Determination of election results shall be by nonpartisan run-off method S.C. Code of Laws (1976) Section 5-15-62 as amended.

In conducting nonpartisan elections and using the run-off method, election results shall be determined in accordance with the following rules:

(1) When more than one person is seeking election to a single office, a "majority" is a number that exceeds the total votes cast for all candidates divided by two. If no candidate receives a majority, the municipality must hold a second election two weeks later between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the first election.

In the event of a tie vote for any office, a run-off election shall be held two weeks following the election pursuant to S.C. Code Annotated Section 5-15-125 (1976). Special elections to fill vacancies shall be held pursuant to S.C. Code Annotated Section 7-13-190 (1976). Two public notices of a regular or special election shall be given, which shall include the location of polling places set by resolution of Council.

The first notice shall be given at least 60 days prior to the election. The second notice shall be given no later than two weeks after the first notice.

SECTION 6. Filing statement of candidacy

Each person offering as a candidate for election to any city office shall do so by filing a notice of candidacy with the Election Commission at least 60 days prior to the date of the election in substantially the following form:

I hereby file notice that I am a candidate for election to the office of mayor/councilmember for ward _____ in the regular municipal election to be held _____. I certify that I am a qualified elector and resident of the municipality and ward for which I seek election.

No political affiliation shall be placed on the ballot for any candidate.

SECTION 7. Filing fees

The filing fee for the office of mayor shall be \$50.00

The filing fee for council shall be \$25.00

SECTION 8. Time of taking office

Newly elected officers shall be qualified to take office on the following Monday after election results have been confirmed. Incumbents shall remain in office until protests are finally determined and successors are qualified and take office.

SECTION 9. Extension of term of office

The Council Members of the City of Belton whose terms are set to expire in February of 2016 shall have their terms of office extended to the First Tuesday in November 2017 due to the change of the election date.

The Mayor and Council Members whose terms are set to expire in February of 2018 shall have their terms of office extended to the First Tuesday in November 2019 due to the change of the election date.

DONE AND RATIFIED IN COUNCIL DULY ASSEMBLED THIS 29 DAY OF September 2015.

First Reading 9/1, 2015

Second Reading 9/29, 2015

Public Hearing 9/29, 2015

ATTEST:

Laurie E. Kennedy
Laurie E. Kennedy
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM

W.N. Epps Jr.
W.N. Epps Jr.
City Attorney

Wendell F. Page
Wendell F. Page, Mayor

James B. Bright
James Bright, Council Member Ward 1

Hattie S. Green
Hattie S. Green, Council Member Ward 2

Jay West
Jay West, Council Member Ward 3

Kelli Hembree
Kelli Hembree, Council Member Ward 4

Lynda McCoy
Lynda McCoy, Council Member Ward 5

John R. Campbell
John R. Campbell, Council Member Ward 6