

Ordinance O-22-45

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHARTER ORDINANCE SECTION 20.07 OF THE CITY OF WAUWATOSA, PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 1.04 AND SECTION 2.02.020 OF THE WAUWATOSA MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, AND CREATING CHARTER ORDINANCE SECTION 20.09 OF THE WAUWATOSA MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF ALDERPERSONS PER DISTRICT FROM TWO (2) PER ALDERMANIC DISTRICT TO ONE (1) PER DISTRICT, DEFINE TWELVE (12) ALDERMANIC DISTRICTS, AND CREATE TERM LIMITS FOR ALDERPERSONS, INCLUDING TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

The Common Council of the City of Wauwatosa does hereby ordain as follows:

Part I. Section 20.07 of the Charter Ordinances of the City of Wauwatosa shall be amended by creating a new subsection, following the current unnumbered paragraph, numbered 20.07 A. which shall read in its entirety as follows:

A. All aldermanic positions which are to be regularly elected at the general election of April, 2024, shall be elected for a term of two (2) years.

Part II. Section 20.07 of the Charter Ordinances of the City of Wauwatosa shall be amended by creating a new subsection 20.07 B. which shall read in its entirety as follows:

B. Effective with the positions elected at the general election of April, 2026, the citizens of Wauwatosa shall be represented at the Common Council by one (1) alderperson per aldermanic district in twelve (12) aldermanic districts. Each aldermanic district shall be composed of two wards as more specifically defined in the Wauwatosa Municipal Code of Ordinances.

Part III. Section 20.07 of the Charter Ordinances of the City of Wauwatosa shall be amended by creating a new subsection 20.07 C. which shall read in its entirety as follows:

C. At the general election of April, 2026, one aldermanic position for each aldermanic district shall be elected. Aldermanic positions in the first (1st), third (3rd), fifth (5th), seventh (7th), ninth (9th) and eleventh (11th) districts which are elected at the general election of April, 2026, shall be elected at that election only for a term of two (2) years, and shall revert to four year terms for subsequent elections beginning with the general election of April, 2028. The other aldermanic positions elected at the April, 2026, election shall be elected for four-year terms.

Part IV. Section 20.09 of the Charter Ordinances of the City of Wauwatosa is hereby created to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 20.09 - Term Limits Imposed

Beginning with the general election in April, 2026, and notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, no person shall be eligible to be nominated, elected or to serve in the office of Alderperson if that person shall previously have held such office for two or more full consecutive four-year terms, unless one full term or more has elapsed since that person last held such office. For the purposes of this section, a term shall be deemed full if a person has served at least half of the time allotted for the term. Service prior to the passage of this section shall not count in determining length of service.

Part V. Section 2.02.020 of the Wauwatosa Municipal Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

2.02.020 Standing committees.

A. The standing committees of the common council shall be appointed by the mayor as follows:

1. Financial affairs;
2. Community affairs;
3. Transportation affairs;
4. Government affairs.

B. Each of the standing committees shall have primary responsibility for the topics described below. Items not fitting precisely within the following descriptions may be assigned to the most appropriate of the committees. Items involving multiple topics which could fall into more than one committee may be heard by any committee which is appropriate. Any committee hearing an item may refer such item to another of the standing committees if it is deemed appropriate or necessary to obtain a complete and thorough consideration of the topic.

1. Financial Affairs Committee. The committee shall have primary responsibility for matters of city expenditures and fiscal planning, including the annual budget, bills and claims, bond issuance, TIF funding, emergency spending, legal settlement expenditure approval, and contract negotiations.

2. Community Affairs Committee. The committee shall have primary responsibility for matters related to development, safety and quality of life issues, as well as the marketing of the city.

3. Government Affairs Committee. The committee shall have primary responsibility for matters of licensing, employee relations, communication (other than marketing), government affairs, governance, strategic planning, legislative affairs, and council administration.

4. Transportation Affairs Committee. The committee shall have primary responsibility for matters of transportation planning, including street and traffic planning, public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle planning and safety, parking restrictions, and communications to other governments and agencies on such topics.

C. When making appointments to the standing committees, the mayor shall appoint six members to each committee.

1. In no event shall a member be appointed to both the financial affairs and community affairs committees at the same time.

2. In no event shall a member be appointed to both the government affairs and transportation affairs committees at the same time.

3. No more than three members of the financial affairs committee may be appointed to either the government affairs or transportation affairs committees. No more than three members of the community affairs committee may be appointed to either the government affairs or transportation affairs committees.

D. Legislative representatives of the council shall be appointed from the membership of the common council to provide liaison representation to boards and commissions as may be required. Each board or commission to which an aldermanic liaison is appointed shall be assigned to one of the standing committees for the purpose of efficient oversight and communication. The standing committees shall be responsible for annually reviewing and considering the ongoing work and activities of its assigned board(s) or commission(s).

E. Each alderperson shall serve on two of the standing committees of the common council.

F. No alderperson shall be appointed as chair to more than one of the four standing committees of the common council.

G. Each member of the common council shall be an ex officio member of the standing committees to which that member is not formally appointed.

Part VI. NON-CODIFIED PROVISION: At such time as the number of members of the Common Council is reduced to twelve (12), the City of Wauwatosa budget shall be adjusted such that salary savings from the four (4) eliminated positions is allocated uniformly as salary among the remaining twelve (12) members of the Common Council.

Part VII. If the April 2022, referendum results in approval of the charter ordinance amendment, the City Clerk is directed to publish this charter ordinance as a class 1 notice under Chapter 985, Wisconsin Statutes and file a certified copy of this charter ordinance with the Wisconsin Secretary of State, as required by Section 66.0101(3), Wisconsin Statutes.

Part VIII. As to those portions of this ordinance amending provisions contained within Chapter 20 - Charter Ordinance, and subject to the provisions of Section 66.0101, Wisconsin Statutes, such charter ordinance amendments shall become effective following passage at referendum and subsequent publication.

Part IX. As to those portions of this ordinance amending provisions in section 2.02.020 of the Wauwatosa Municipal Code of Ordinances, such provisions shall only take effect on April 21, 2026, or at such other time as the size of the Wauwatosa Common Council is reduced in number from sixteen to twelve members. If the Common Council membership is not adjusted to twelve members, this ordinance shall not become effective at any time.

Passed and Dated April 11, 2022

City Clerk

Approved _____

Mayor