

ORDINANCE NO. 2010-959

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM FOR NOMINATING CANDIDATES FOR CITY OFFICES OF THE CITY OF WAITSBURG AND AMENDING TITLE 3 CHAPTER 1 OF THE WAITSBURG MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO NOMINATING CONVENTION OF THE CITY ELECTION

WHEREAS, updates to the Waitsburg City Municipal Code related to elections are necessary to encourage citizens' involvement in the political process;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Waitsburg do ordain as follows:

Section 1: Chapter 2 is added to Title 3 of the Waitsburg Municipal Code and shall read as follows:

3.02.010. A person who is an elector of the City of Waitsburg, and is otherwise qualified and eligible to hold public office under RCW 29A.020.021, may become a candidate for an elected office of the City of Waitsburg by filing a declaration of candidacy on a form provided by the City Clerk.

3.02.020. A person may be a candidate for only one office each year.

3.02.030. The filing period for declarations of candidacy shall be open for ten (10) business days beginning on the first Monday in March.

3.02.040. When the filing period has closed, the names of all of those who filed declarations of candidacy and meet the requirements for the office they seek shall be placed on the ballot in alphabetical order.

3.02.050. The candidate may withdraw his/her declaration of candidacy any time before the close of business on the last day for the candidates to file. A withdrawal is effective by filing with the City Clerk a signed request that his/her name not be printed on the ballot. There shall be no withdrawal period for declarations of candidacy filed during special filing periods.

3.02.060. If a void in candidacy for any city office occurs after the last day for filing declarations of candidacy, the filing shall be reopened for a period of three days beginning on the next business day in March.

Section 2: Chapter 3 is added to Title 3 of the Waitsburg Municipal Code and shall read as follows:

3.03.010. Candidates may be nominated to the city election ballot by either the convention method as described in Chapter 1 or the filing method as described in Chapter 2.

3.03.020. After the City Clerk has received all nominations as provided in Chapters 1 and 2 above, the City Clerk shall cause all persons nominated to be listed on the city election ballot in

alphabetical order by office. For example, all nominees for mayor shall be listed alphabetically under the title of "Mayor", all nominees for council alphabetically under the title "Council", etc.

3.03.030. A vacancy in office occurs if, after a special filing period, no candidate is nominated for a particular office.

Section 3: Chapter 1 of Title 3 section 030 of the Waitsburg Municipal Code is hereby amended and shall read as follows:

TITLE 3 - ELECTIONS

Chapter 1 - Nominating Convention

3.01.030. All nominations made by such convention shall be certified as follows: The certificate of nomination which shall be in writing shall contain the name of each person nominated, his or her residence, business, address and the city office for which he or she is named, and shall designate in not more than five words the principle which such convention represents, and it shall be signed by the presiding officer and by the secretary of such convention, who shall add to their signatures their respective addresses; such certificate shall be filed with the Clerk of the City of Waitsburg not more than thirty five (35) days and not less than twenty five (25) days prior to the day of election.

3.01.040. The nominee may withdraw his/her nomination any time before the close of business on the last day for filing identified in 3.01.030. A withdrawal is effective by filing with the City Clerk a signed request that his/her name not be printed on the ballot. There shall be no withdrawal period for nominations filed during special filing periods.

Section 4. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage by the Council and publication as required by law.

Passed by the Waitsburg City Council this 20th day of January, 2010.

Approved:

Attest:

Markeeta Little Wolf, Mayor

Randy Hinchliffe, City Clerk

Approved as to form:

Janelle Carman, City Attorney