

(First Published in the Columbus News Report _____, 2019)

CHARTER ORDINANCE NO.1436

A CHARTER ORDINANCE RESTRUCTURING THE COLUMBUS CITY COUNCIL, THEREBY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FROM TEN TO FIVE AND ESTABLISHING A SCHEDULE FOR STAGGERED THREE-YEAR ELECTIVE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS AND MAYORS BY 2024.

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Columbus, Kansas, has determined that the interests of the City are best served by reducing the number of City Council Members from ten (10), two from each ward, to five (5), one from each ward, and to set staggered terms of Council Members and the Mayor to be three (3) years by January, 2024.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY. The City of Columbus, Kansas, by the power vested in it by Article 12, Section 5, of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, hereby elects to and does exempt itself from the provisions of K.S.A. 14-201, K.S.A. 14-204, and K.S.A. 25-205 concerning the number of Council Members from each ward and terms of office of non-partisan, elective officials. Such statutory sections are applicable to this City but are not uniformly applicable to all cities.

SECTION 2. REPEAL. Charter Ordinance 1377, Section 2, Charter Ordinance 1250 Section 2, and Code 2014, Section 6-105 shall be repealed.

SECTION 3. ELECTIVE OFFICES AND TERMS.

(a) Effective January, 2022, the governing body of Columbus, Kansas, shall consist of a Mayor and five (5) Council Members, one (1) Council Member from each of the five (5) wards.

(b) The Mayor's position and the five (5) Council Member positions whose terms begin January, 2020, and expire in January, 2022, shall remain unchanged for that term.

(c) Council positions whose terms began January, 2019, and expire in January, 2021, shall expire in January, 2021, and be permanently abolished thereafter.

(d) The Mayor's position shall be on the November, 2021, general election ballot. The Mayor shall serve a three-year term, beginning in January, 2022, and expiring in January, 2025, and Mayors shall be elected to three-year terms thereafter.

(e) Five (5) Council positions, one (1) from each ward, shall be on the ballot to be elected or re-elected in the November, 2021, general election.

(f) Council positions representing Ward 1, Ward 3 and Ward 5 shall be on the November, 2021, ballot, elected to serve two-year terms, beginning January, 2022, and expiring in January, 2024.

(g) Beginning with the November, 2023, general election, Council positions representing Ward 1, Ward 3 and Ward 5 shall be on the November, 2023 ballot, elected to serve three-year terms, beginning January, 2024, and expiring in January 2027, and shall be elected to three-year terms thereafter.

(h) Council positions representing Ward 2 and Ward 4 shall be on the November, 2021, ballot, elected to serve three-year terms beginning in January, 2022, and expiring in January, 2025, and shall be elected to three-year terms thereafter.

(i) All City election cycles shall be subject to State rules governing filing deadlines and primary and general elections. Succeeding elections will be held according to the aforementioned schedule.

SECTION 4. QUALIFICATIONS. Elective elections and officials for the City of Columbus, Kansas, shall be nonpartisan. The Mayor and Council Members shall be residents and qualified electors of the City of Columbus, Kansas.

SECTION 5. CONFLICTS. This charter ordinance hereby expressly repeals all other ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith.

SECTION 6. PUBLICATION. This Charter Ordinance shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official City newspaper

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE. This Charter Ordinance shall take effect 61 days after the final publication unless a sufficient petition for a referendum is filed, requiring a referendum to be held on the ordinance as provided by Article 12, Section 5, Subsection (c)(3) of the Constitution of the State of Kansas, in which case this Charter Ordinance shall become effective upon approval by the majority of the electors voting thereon.

PASSED and APPROVED by the Governing Body, not less than two-thirds of the members

elect voting in favor thereof, this 18th day of March, 2019.


Grant Spieth, Mayor

ATTEST:


Cherry Chancellor, City Clerk

(SEAL)