

ORDINANCE NO. 183

**AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR A GENERAL ELECTION
TO PROPOSE TO THE VOTERS STAGGERED FOUR-YEAR
TERMS FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS; AND TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, Ark. Code Ann. § 14-44-103 sets out the procedure for the election of council members in cities of the second class; and

WHEREAS, under Ark. Code Ann. § 14-44-103, council members of the City Council of Goshen, Arkansas are currently elected every two years; and

WHEREAS, under Ordinance No. 17, duly adopted by the City Council on May 14th, 2002, the City Council established wards and required that council members reside in the ward for which they seek to be elected. The ordinance further provided that each candidate for the office of council member shall run for election at large such that all of the qualified electors of the city of Goshen shall be entitled to vote in the election; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature adopted 2003 Ark. Acts No. 328, amending Ark. Code Ann. § 14-44-103, which provides that the city council of a city of the second class may refer to voters an ordinance on the question of electing two council members for each ward to staggered four-year terms.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
THE CITY OF GOSHEN, ARKANSAS:**

SECTION 1. Consistent with Ark. Code Ann. § 14-44-103, the City Council hereby refers to the voters of Goshen, Arkansas, at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020, an ordinance on the question of electing the two (2) council members for each ward to four-year terms, with the proposed staggered four-year terms to be effective as of the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022. This election shall be held consistent with the laws of the State of Arkansas.

SECTION 2. The initial term for the council member designated as “council member number one” in each ward shall be a four-year term at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022. The initial term for the council member designated as “council member number two” in each ward shall be a two-year term beginning at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 8th, 2022, and, thereafter, shall be a four-year term beginning with the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024.

SECTION 3. The City Council hereby requests and directs that the County Clerk and the County Election Commission place the following language on the ballot at the November 3rd, 2020 general election:

**CHANGING THE TERMS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS IN THE CITY
OF GOSHEN FROM TWO-YEAR TERMS TO STAGGERED FOUR-
YEAR TERMS**

The question of changing the terms of council members who make up the City Council of Goshen from two-year terms to staggered four-year terms. Currently, council members for each ward in the City of Goshen are elected to two-year terms. If this question is approved, council members for position 1 in each of the three wards would be elected to a four-year term at the November 2022 general election, and those council members for position 2 in each ward would be elected to a two-year term in the November 2022 general election but would be elected to a four-year term starting in the November 2024 general election. If this question is approved, half of the City Council positions would be open for election every general election after 2024, and each council member's term shall be four (4) years after the November 2024 general election. If this question is not approved, all of the city council positions for the City of Goshen will be open for election every two years at the general election.

FOR changing the terms of council member in the City of Goshen from two-year terms to staggered four-year terms.

AGAINST changing the terms of council member in the City of Goshen from two-year terms to staggered four-year terms.

SECTION 4. Section 2 of this ordinance shall only be effective upon approval by a majority of the voters of the City of Goshen who cast their ballot at the general election on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020. If a majority of those voting at the general election vote against this proposal, Section 2 of this ordinance shall be null and void.

SECTION 5. EMERGENCY CLAUSE: It is hereby declared that based on the conditions set forth herein, and to provide sufficient time to ensure this question is placed on the ballot for the November 2020 general election, an emergency exists and this Ordinance, being necessary for the immediate protection of the health, welfare and safety of the citizens of Goshen, Arkansas, shall be in effect immediately upon its passage, approval and publication.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 12th day of May 2020.



Max Poye, Mayor

ATTEST:



Linda Moore, City Recorder

ROLL CALL VOTE ADOPTING THE ORDINANCE

Names of those voting YEA

Names of those voting NAY

Bill Hewat
John Vaillancourt
Angie Driver
Birch Wright

Absent

Paula Anderson
Colton Martin

ROLL CALL VOTE ADOPTING THE EMERGENCY CLAUSE

Names of those voting YEA

Names of those voting NAY

Bill Hewat
John Vaillancourt
Angie Driver
Birch Wright

Absent

Paula Anderson
Colton Martin