

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 14-1 OF THE AIKEN CITY CODE TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAYOR TO BE ELECTED AT LARGE AND SIX COUNCIL MEMBERS TO BE ELECTED FROM SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS AND AMENDING SECTION 14-2 OF THE AIKEN CITY CODE TO PROVIDE FOR THE TERMS OF OFFICE FOR MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS.

WHEREAS, in a referendum authorized by Ordinance Number 06272011 and conducted on November 8, 2011, a majority of the electors voting in the referendum approved the City of Aiken changing its method of electing members to City Council to the method whereby six (6) members are elected from single member districts and the mayor is elected at large;

WHEREAS, in a letter dated August 31, 2011, the United States Department of Justice stated that it did not object under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act to the aforesaid referendum being conducted;

WHEREAS, on February 27, 2012, City Council adopted Resolution 02272012 establishing the criteria to be considered by Council in developing the boundaries of the six (6) single member districts to be created under the new method of election;

WHEREAS, the City of Aiken held public hearings on February 29, 2012, and March 8, 2012, on a map and plan creating six (6) single member districts prepared by the Office of Research and Statistics of the South Carolina State Budget & Control Board using the aforesaid criteria;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AIKEN HEREBY ORDAINS THAT:

Section 1:

Section 14-1 of the Aiken City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 14-1. Election of mayor and council members.

The mayor shall be elected from the city at large, and one (1) member of council shall be elected from each of the six (6) districts set forth and designated upon the map and accompanying documents entitled “City of Aiken Election Plan (2012)” that are on file in the official records maintained by the city clerk. The City of Aiken Election Plan (2012) in its entirety is incorporated into this section by reference. Candidates seeking election to council from one of the six (6) districts must be a resident of the district for which the candidate is seeking election and, if elected, must continue to be a resident of that district for the entire term of office. Candidates seeking election as mayor must be a resident of the city and, if elected, must continue to be a resident of the city for the entire term of office.”

Section 2:

Section 14-2 of the Aiken City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 14-2. Terms of office.

The mayor and members of council shall be elected for terms of four (4) years. Commencing with the 2013 general municipal election, council members for Districts 2, 4, 5 and 6 shall be elected. Commencing with the 2015 general municipal election, the mayor and council members for Districts 1 and 3 shall be elected. The districts referred to in this section are those set forth and designated upon the map and accompanying documents identified in Section 14-1.”

Section 3:

All ordinances or portions of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance, or any portion of this ordinance, are hereby repealed.

Section 4:

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Council of the City of Aiken. If preclearance of this ordinance is required by Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, (42 USC 1973c), this ordinance may not be enforced until such preclearance is obtained.

ADOPTED by the Council of the City of Aiken at a regular meeting held this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2012, at which a quorum was present and voting.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING: March 26, 2012

SECOND READING AND ADOPTION: July 9, 2012

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Mayor

Approved as to form:

Attest:

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City Attorney

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City Clerk