

AGENDA

ADJOURNED REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
EXECUTIVE BOARD ROOM
5000 CLARK AVENUE
LAKEWOOD, CALIFORNIA

September 4, 2018, 12:00 p.m.

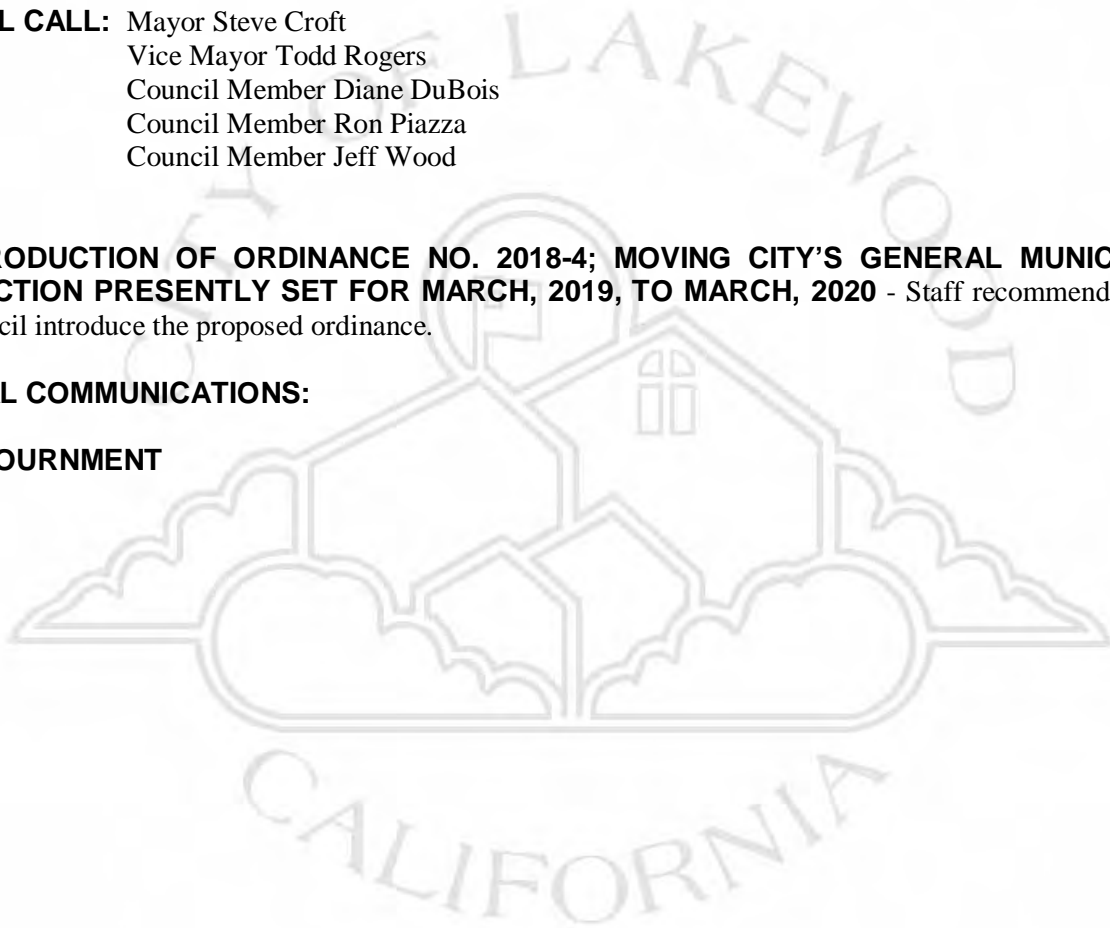
CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL: Mayor Steve Croft
Vice Mayor Todd Rogers
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Ron Piazza
Council Member Jeff Wood

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4; MOVING CITY'S GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION PRESENTLY SET FOR MARCH, 2019, TO MARCH, 2020 - Staff recommends City Council introduce the proposed ordinance.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

ADJOURNMENT



ADJOURNED COUNCIL AGENDA

September 4, 2018

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

SUBJECT: Consideration of Options Relative to the Next General Municipal Election

BACKGROUND

The City of Lakewood general municipal elections are now held in March of odd-numbered years, to elect five members of the City Council, with three members elected in one year and two members elected two years removed; and

Senate Bill 415 (SB 415) compelled all California Cities to consolidate their general municipal elections with a statewide election date (March or November of even years), not later than November 2022. In October of 2017 – in response to and compliance with SB 415 – the City Council took action to move the March 2021 Council-manic election to March 2022, leaving in place the March 2019 election date. In so doing, it was the expectation that the City's longstanding election consultant/provider, Martin & Chapman, would conduct the March 2019 election, and \$152,000 was included in the FY 2018-19 budget accordingly.

Unfortunately, due to several cities having moved their elections from 2019 to 2020 in the intervening months since the Lakewood Council took its action, Martin & Chapman have determined that there are not enough customers (i.e. cities contracting for March 2019) for it to make business sense to remain open. They have announced that they are shutting their doors and will not be able to conduct Lakewood's March 2019 election. Over the past few weeks, City staff have endeavored to find another consultant (or even a team of consultants) who could step in and do the election in lieu of Martin & Chapman. Unfortunately, there are no such firms who are able to provide the services needed to run the election. This leaves the City with only the option of paying Los Angeles County to run a 2019 election.

Los Angeles County initially gave the City an estimate of \$617,000 for running the election in March of 2019. City Clerk Jo Mayberry met with the Registrar Recorder's staff and was able to identify opportunities to save \$111,000 of costs, reducing the County's estimate to approximately \$500,000 to run an election in March 2019. As stated above, the City has budgeted \$152,000 for election costs, based on historical data, trends and discussions with Martin & Chapman (at a point when they were going to conduct the election). This means that the cost of the election would be \$350,000 more than is budgeted.

Given that the City has identified existing and ongoing budget challenges, the City Council is being asked to consider the two options it has before it relative to the next Council election: 1) stay with the 2019 election date and pay a higher than budgeted amount; or, 2) take action to move the March 2019 election to March 2020. It should be noted that the costs for the County to conduct a March 2020 election are not known at this time. However, our past experience leads us to believe that the costs will be essentially the same as what we have paid Martin & Chapman in the past (perhaps slightly higher, but not significantly) – likely between \$150,000 and \$200,000. The reason why the 2020 election would be less than 2019 is that the 2020 election will be a Countywide (and statewide) election wherein the County bears a significant percentage of the costs, as opposed to the stand-alone 2019 election that would be wholly the responsibility of the City to pay.

Should the City Council want to move the election date, an Ordinance has been prepared for introduction that would change the March 2019 election to March 2020, pursuant to Sections 1000 and 1301 of the California Elections Code. If introduced at tonight's meeting, the Ordinance would be put on the September 11, 2018 City Council agenda for adoption. The matter would then be taken up by the County Board of Supervisors to accept the consolidation of the City's election with the County. Staff has spoken with the County who thinks it is feasible to facilitate the Board of Supervisors' approval by early October, which is prior to when the City would otherwise need to take action to call for a March 2019 election.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the City Council consider its options relative to the next General Municipal Election:

- 1) Stay with the 2019 election date and pay a higher than budgeted amount; or,
- 2) Introduce Ordinance No. 2018-4, moving the City's General Municipal Election Presently set for March 2019, to March 2020, and waive further reading.



Thaddeus McCormack
City Manager

Attachments

ORDINANCE NO. 2018-4

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
LAKEWOOD MOVING THE CITY'S GENERAL MUNICIPAL
ELECTION PRESENTLY SET FOR MARCH, 2019, TO
MARCH, 2020

WHEREAS, City of Lakewood (the "City") general municipal elections are now held in March of odd-numbered years, to elect five members of the City Council, with three members elected in one year and two members elected two years removed; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of Senate Bill 415 (SB 415) compel the City to consolidate its general municipal elections with a statewide election date, not later than November, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Sections 1301 and 10403.5 of the California Elections Code authorize the City Council to reschedule its general municipal elections to increase or decrease any terms of office by not more than 12 months; and

WHEREAS, the provisions of SB 415 authorize the City Council to move the general municipal election presently set for March, 2019, to March 2020; and

WHEREAS, Martin & Chapman, the City's longtime election consultant, has informed the City that it is going out of business, and will not be available to run an election for the City in 2019, leaving the City with only the option of paying Los Angeles County to run a 2019 election; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County has provided the City with a \$500,000 cost estimate for running an election in March, 2019, when the City had budgeted \$152,000 for election costs, based on historical data and trends; and

WHEREAS, the City has a structural budget deficit due primarily to flat revenues and rapidly increasing CalPERS costs, and there are no funds available in the City's 2018-19 budget to pay such massively increased election costs; and

WHEREAS, if the City holds an election in March, 2019, the unanticipated costs will necessarily require cutbacks in important services to City residents,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD DOES
ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Change of Election Date. Pursuant to Sections 1000 and 1301 of the California Elections Code, the City's general municipal election presently set for March, 2019, is hereby moved to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, 2020.

SECTION 2. Adjustment to Terms of Office. Pursuant to Section 1301 and 10403.5 of the California Elections Code, the term of any elected City officeholder that would have expired in March, 2019, shall instead expire in the same manner, but after the occurrence of the general municipal election to be held in March, 2020.

SECTION 3. In the event that any provision in this Ordinance is in conflict with any provision in the Lakewood Municipal Code, this Ordinance shall prevail.

SECTION 4. Consolidated Election. Pursuant to Section 1301 and 10403.5 of the California Elections Code, the City hereby requests that the County of Los Angeles approve this Ordinance and allow for the consolidation of the City's proposed 2020 general municipal election with the statewide general election to be conducted by the County in March, 2020. The City Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this Ordinance to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors with a request that it be approved.

SECTION 5. Operative Date. This Ordinance shall become operative upon approval by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. In the event that the Board does not approve this Ordinance prior to the deadline for the City Council taking the actions necessary to call a general municipal election for March, 2019, the City Council may proceed to take such actions, despite the provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 6. Notice to Voters. Pursuant to Section 10403.5(e) of the California Elections Code, within 30 days after this Ordinance becomes operative, the City's Elections Official shall cause notice to be mailed to all registered voters, informing the voters of the change in election dates made by this Ordinance, and that, as a result of such change, the terms of office of City officeholders will be extended by not more than 12 months.

SECTION 7. The City Council hereby declares it would have passed this Ordinance sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph and section by section, and does hereby declare the provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if for any reason any section of this Ordinance should be held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this Ordinance.

SECTION 8. The City Clerk shall certify to the adoption of this Ordinance. The City Council hereby finds and determines there are no newspapers of general circulation both published and circulated within the City and, in compliance with Section 36933 of the Government Code, directs the City Clerk to cause said Ordinance within fifteen (15) days after its passage to be posted in at least three (3) public places within the City as established by Ordinance.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2018, by the following roll call vote:

	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Council Member Piazza	_____	_____	_____
Council Member DuBois	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Rogers	_____	_____	_____
Council Member Wood	_____	_____	_____
Mayor Croft	_____	_____	_____

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk