

## REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL



**DATE:** June 16, 2020

**TITLE:** Notice and Call of General Municipal Election to be Held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020

**Prepared by:** Jerryl Soriano, CMC, City Clerk

### RECOMMENDATION

- 1) Adopt a Resolution of the City Council giving notice of the election of officers, authorizing the City Clerk to perform all items necessary to lawfully conduct the election, and requesting services from the County of Riverside to assist in conducting and canvassing the election; and
- 2) Adopt a Resolution of the City Council establishing general regulations for the filing of an optional candidate's statement for inclusion in the voter's pamphlet; and setting the deposit fee at \$500.00.

### BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Under the provisions of Desert Hot Springs Municipal Code (DHSMC) § 2.04.060, a General Municipal Election ("Election") shall be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020 (the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November in each even numbered year) for the election of the following Municipal Officers:

Seat	Term (Municipal Code Chapter 2.04, Article II, Elections)	
<b>Mayor</b>	*4 Year Term	(currently held by incumbent Scott Matas)
<b>Council Member</b>	4 Year Term	(currently held by incumbent Russell Betts)
<b>Council Member</b>	4 Year Term	(currently held by appointed incumbent Robert Griffith)

\* Commencing in 2020, the directly elected mayor shall have a four-year term with a term limit of two terms pursuant to Measure "V" passed by the voters in November 2018.

Two routine and customary resolutions have been prepared for adoption by the City Council. The adopted resolutions must be submitted to the Registrar of Voters ("ROV"), County of Riverside, no later than June 25, 2020:

#### 1) Notice and Call of Election

The first resolution (Exhibit 1) gives notice of the election, requests consolidation and the services of the "ROV" to conduct the election, and provides for the payment of such services.

#### 2) Candidate Statement and Deposit (Optional)

The second resolution (Exhibit 2) sets forth rules and regulations pertaining to the cost, preparation, and submission of candidate statements for inclusion in the voters pamphlet mailed to each registered voter, as required by California Elections Code § 13307.

Candidate statements (maximum 200 words) are optional. Should a candidate choose to have a statement included in the voters pamphlet, the deposit required at the time nomination papers are filed is \$500.00. The deposit amount was determined by the "ROV" as an approximation of the actual cost. Following the Election, candidates may be billed, or refunded the unused portion of the deposit based on the actual cost.

Pursuant to California Elections Code § 13308, candidate statements shall be limited to a recitation of the candidate's own personal background and qualifications and shall not

in any way make reference to other candidates for that office or to another candidate's qualifications, character, or activities.

### **Nomination Period**

Every election starts with a "Nomination Period." This is the period of time that begins 113 days before the day of the election and ends 88 days before the day of the election. This is the only period of time during which potential candidates can obtain "nomination papers," which are the official forms needed in order to run for office.

The nomination period begins on Monday, July 13, 2020 and ends on August 6, 2020.

If an incumbent does not file nomination papers, the nominating period is extended pursuant to California Elections Code § 10225. As such, candidates other than the incumbent may file nomination papers for that office until August 12, 2020.

### **Candidate Filing Fee**

Pursuant to DHSMC § 2.04.090, there is an established filing fee of \$25.00 due at the time nomination papers are filed, to defray, in part, the cost to the City of processing nomination papers.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The "ROV" has advised that the estimated cost for the Election is \$41,000. As such, \$41,000 has been appropriated in the FY 2020-21 Budget in Account No. 001-41-11-4320 (City Council / Contract Services). Should the cost exceed \$41,000, Staff will prepare a budget adjustment for the City Council's approval.

### **EXHIBITS**

- 1) Resolution – Calling the Election
- 2) Resolution – Candidate Statement
- 3) Election Calendar
- 4) "Basic Steps in Running for Office"