

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Faye Stewart, Public Works & Development Director, Interim City Manager

SUBJECT: COUNCIL DIRECTION TO STAFF REGARDING THREE CITY RESIDENT PROPOSED CITY INITIATIVES

DATE: January 3, 2024

### Background

At the December 11, 2023 City Council meeting, during public comments Michael Borke requested the City Council review his proposed initiatives and consider placing them on the ballot. On December 12, 2023 Mr. Borke requested in writing that the City Council review and consider placing the three initiatives on the ballot.

The first initiative, Exhibit A, is a City Charter amendment of Chapter III, Section 7 that would require the four City Council positions representing City Wards be elected by the residents in the ward for which they have filed. Currently the Ward positions are elected City wide.

The second initiative, exhibit B, is a City Charter amendment of Chapter VII, Section 32, would require a vacated City Council position remain vacant until filled by a vote of the City residents at the next General Election. Currently the positions are filled by the City Council until the next available General Election.

The third initiative, Exhibit C, is a proposed Ordinance amending Ordinance 3174 Section 12.24.020 of Cottage Grove Municipal Code pertaining to overnight camping. The proposed Ordinance would require the overnight campsites to only be occupied from 6:00 pm to 7:00 am the following day. Currently there is no limit to how long current occupants are allowed to stay at the overnight campsites.

City Legal Counsel has worked with the City Recorder to review the proposed initiatives language to ensuring they could be implemented by City staff if they are approved by election.

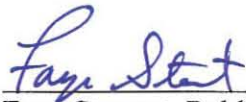
### Recommendation

That the City Council consider each proposed initiative and give direction to staff to do nothing or to proceed to refer the initiative text reflecting Exhibits A, B, and/or C to the voters at the next General Election. City Council could also choose to direct staff to

prepare an Ordinance for Exhibit C for Council to consider at a future City Council meeting.

Cost

No cost at this time. If Council directs action on one or more of the proposed initiatives staff will return to City Council with the costs and timeline for the action requested.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Faye Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath it.

Faye Stewart, Public Works &  
Development Director  
Interim City Manager

Exhibit A

Ordinance NO

An Ordinance amending the City Charter in Chapter III section 7  
and

Whereas, the residents find it necessary to change how residents vote on the City Council ward voting in Cottage Grove. This would affect the Ward 1, Ward 2 Ward 3 and Ward 4 on how the residents would vote.

The City of Cottage Grove Charter as follows:

Amend Section 7 of the Cottage Grove City Charters, as follows: Section 7 Council.

The Council consists of a mayor and six councilors. The City must be divided into four wards. The Council must fix, and may from time to time modify, the boundaries of the wards. Each ward must be represented on the Council by one Councilor. Two councilors must represent the City at large. All ward councilors must be elected by their respective wards. The mayor and at large councilors must be elected by the City at Large.

Exhibit B

Charter of the city of Cottage Grove

Chapter VII Elections amending the section 32

Whereas the residents find it necessary to change section 32.

The City of Cottage Charter – Chapter VII Election Section 32:

Amend Section 7 of the Cottage Grove City Charter. As follows:

Section 32. Filling Vacancies.

A mayor or councilor vacancy will be filled by a qualified candidate at the next general election following applicable candidate nomination procedures. Candidates must be a resident of the same ward as the predecessor in office, unless the predecessor was a Councilor At Large. The elected replacement will serve the predecessor's remaining term. If a disability prevents a Council member from attending Council meetings or a member is absent from the City, a majority of the Council may appoint a councilor pro tem.

## Ordinance NO 3174

### An Ordinance amending the Ordinance 3174 section 12.24.020

Whereas the residents find it necessary to change section K line item 3. Specific Park areas may be exempt from park closure hours pursuant to a management plan for the use of public lands by individuals experiencing homelessness, adopted by city council resolution.

The City of Cottage Ordinance NO 3174 section 12.24.020 section K line item 3 as follows:

Amend CGMC 12.24.020.k.3, as follows:

- i. Overnight camping on public lands not located on Highway 99 shall be allowed only between the hours of 6 p.m. and 7 a.m.; and
- ii. One tent and one non-motorized mode of transportation may be visible on such designated public lands; all other personal belongings must be contained within the individual camper's tent.