

ORDINANCE NUMBER 585

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.07, MAYOR PRO TEM, OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF THOMSON, GEORGIA; AND TO REPEAL ANY CONFLICTING ORDINANCES.

WHEREAS, Section 2.07 of the City Charter was enacted as a part of the original Charter of the City of Thomson; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of the Charter, the City of Thomson has changed the method of voting for city council members from at large city-wide voting with the candidates receiving the largest number of votes being elected to the current system of candidates running within a specified voting; and

WHEREAS, the Charter contains a method of default selection for a mayor pro tem in the event a mayor pro tem is not appointed by council at the first meeting of the council in January following a general election; and

WHEREAS, the default method of appointing a mayor pro tem is to appoint the council member who received the highest number of votes when last elected does not take into consideration that some candidate(s) may run unopposed and receive few votes nor does it take into consideration that each district has a different number of voters;

WHEREAS, council has determined that Section 2.07 of the Charter should be repealed in its entirety and replaced for the purpose of (a) abolishing the default appointment of a mayor pro tem; and (b) allow for the appointment of mayor pro tem by majority vote of council.

NOW THEREFORE, be it Ordained by the Mayor and Council of the City of Thomson, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained that Section 2.07 of the City of Thomson, Georgia Charter be amended as follows:

SECTION 2.07. – Mayor Pro Tem

At the first meeting of council in even numbered years, the council shall elect by majority vote from its membership a mayor pro tem for a term of two years. Upon the council's failure to elect a mayor pro tem at said meeting, the incumbent mayor pro tem shall continue to serve as mayor pro tem until such time as a mayor pro tem is elected by the council. The mayor pro tem shall perform the duties of the mayor during his/her absence from the city or his/her disability.

Be it further ordained by the authority aforesaid that any and all parts of the City Charter in conflict with this Amendment be and the same are hereby repealed, and this Amendment shall be in full force and effect from after its adoption by the Mayor and Council of the City of Thomson.

Be it further ordained that the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this Amendment to all appropriate municipal, county, state and federal offices as required by all laws pertinent thereto.

3-15-2024
Mayor & Council of Thomson, GA

This Ordinance shall become effective upon the date of its adoption.

FIRST READING: FEBRUARY 8, 2024

SECOND READING: March 14, 2024

UPON PASSAGE: Ayes 3

Nays 2

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR BENJAMIN C. CRANFORD, JR.

ATTEST: _____
CITY CLERK LUCRETIA W. FERGUSON

Thomson City Council Called Meeting
Government Center
Second Floor Meeting Room
April 1, 2024
5:00 P.M.

Present:


Benji Cranford, Mayor
Alton Belton, Councilmember
Keryl Corley, Councilmember
Elaine Johnson, Councilmember
John Smalley, Councilmember
Scott Whittle, Councilmember

John Waller, City Administrator
Lucretia Ferguson, City Clerk
Jimmy Plunkett, City Attorney

Also Present:

Karen Fioretti, McDuffie Progress
Randie Taylor
Peggy Lovejoy

Mayor Cranford brought to order the meeting, called to uphold or overturn the mayor's veto of this ordinance, at 5:13pm. CA Waller explained that the mayor vetoed, on March 15, 2024, this ordinance that was approved on March 14th. The Council has thirty days to override the veto with a 4/5 vote. The called meeting date is seventeen calendar days from the veto. A motion to override the veto was made by Councilmember Belton and seconded by Councilmember Johnson. A vote taken of 3-2 was not sufficient to override the veto. The ordinance is null and void; the City Charter is not amended.



Mayor Benjamin C. Cranford, Jr.



City Clerk Lucretia W. Ferguson

