

SEPTEMBER 15, 2008
CITY OF SENOIA
PUBLIC HEARING
MAYOR AND COUNCIL TERM LENGTHS
7:00 PM

VISITORS: Sam & Suzanne Helfman, Gail Downs, Bob Fant, Cynthia Bennett, Petti & Rick Waggoner, Martha Barksdale, Bill & Betty Jerome, John Thompson, Captain Edens, Sgt. Resmondo, Bill Wood, Mary Provost and Bob Werner.

FULL COUNCIL PRESENT

1. CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME VISITORS

Mayor Belisle called the Public Hearing to order and welcomed all.

2. PURPOSE OF PUBLIC HEARING

To solicit public comment on changing Council term lengths from Two-Year to Four-Year Terms.

3. COMMENTS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Ferry explained that the City's even year elections are in line with the Federal election and new Federal election standards require that the ballots be prepared for early balloting. The new standards which excluded changes to municipalities, conflicts with municipal qualifying dates and therefore Council has the choices of attempting to change State law, move to odd years or change to 4-year terms in odd years only. Mr. Ferry continued to say that the procedure in changing to 4-year terms includes first to adopt a resolution with a unanimous vote and then present to Billy Horne who will forward for legislation. Mr. Ferry added that Senator Mitch Seabaugh is in favor of this change. All were informed that the two council seats voted this year will be for the two and one additional allowed by law and next year's Mayor and two council seats would be for four.

4. COMMENTS FROM CITY ATTORNEY

5. COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC

Bill Wood of 468 Pylant Street stated that as a former 5-year Councilmember he is very much in favor of moving to 4-year terms as elections are very costly to the City, time consuming and 4 years would give the town continuity. Mr. Wood continued that many other cities are on 4-year terms and our Commissioners are also 4-year terms. Mr. Wood added that the only negative to this would be if you were to get one who was not performing on Council but there are steps in place that call for removal if that should be the case.

6. COMMENTS FROM COUNCIL

Mayor Belisle asked if Council has any questions about the term lengths or the City Attorney's memo. C. Owens stated when he was a "rookie" 2 years was just not enough time to learn, get things working and effectively make things happen

7. ADJOURN

Mayor Belisle made motion to adjourn the September 15, 2008 Public Hearing & was 2nd by C. Graham. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert K. Belisle, Mayor

Debra J. Volk, City Clerk