



CITY OF MINNEOLA

“Delivering Excellence”

In the upcoming election there will be two questions that appear on the ballot for your consideration....what will each of these questions mean to you?

Ballot Question Number 1: Forfeiture of Office. The Charter provides that if a councilmember is indicted by a grand jury, such councilmember shall be suspended from office until the trial results are known. The State Attorney most often issues an information when sufficient probable cause exists rather than an indictment. The proposed Charter amendment adds that if an information for a crime involving moral turpitude is filed against a councilmember, the councilmember shall be suspended from office until disposition of the case.

This change is being considered for the protection of the City and if approved, broadens the circumstances in which a council member may be suspended from office. The Charter currently states that an indictment by a grand jury against a council member, which is less commonly used in prosecuting crimes, is the only means by which a council member could be suspended based on a potential violation of the law. If the State Attorney's office issues an "information" based on sufficient probable cause of a violation of the law, the City would like the ability to suspend the council member in question without pay until the disposition of the case. If this ballot question is approved, the City would have this ability to do so.

Ballot Question Number 2: Exclusive Franchises. Under Minneola's Charter, exclusive franchises are prohibited within Minneola. An exclusive franchise is the right to be the sole city-wide provider of a certain product or service, such as a utility or trash collection, and usually requires payments by the provider to the city, generating city revenue. The proposed amendment to section 9.1 removes this prohibition, allowing the City Council to, by ordinance after public hearing, grant exclusive franchises.

This change could be a great cost saving measure for the City. The ability to lock into a service or product provider for an extended period of time could enable the negotiation of the lowest possible price over a longer period of time.