

MEASURE L

Shall Sections 6.02, 6.03, 6.04, 6.05, 6.06, 6.07, 6.08, 6.09 and 6.10 of the City Charter, regarding direct legislation by the people of the City of Watauga, be amended to read:

“Sec. 6.02. - Initiative.

The people of the City of Watauga reserve the power of direct legislation by initiative, and in exercise of such power may propose any ordinance or resolution except: (1) ordinances appropriating money or levying taxes, and (2) ordinances repealing ordinances appropriating money or levying taxes, not in conflict with this Charter, or applicable law. Any initiated ordinance or resolution may, subject to the above, be submitted by the qualified voters of the City of Watauga, by submitting a petition addressed to the city council which requests the submission of a proposed ordinance or resolution to a vote of the qualified voters of the city. Said petition must be signed by qualified voters of the city equal in number to 30 percent of the number of votes cast at the last regular municipal election of the city, or 350, whichever is greater, and each copy of the petition shall have attached to it a copy of the proposed legislation. The petition shall be signed in the same form and manner as recall petitions are signed as provided in section 5.02 of this Charter and shall be verified by oath in the same manner provided for recall petitions in section 5.03 of this Charter. The petition may consist of one or more copies known as "recall petitions" in the same form and manner as provided in section 5.04 of this Charter. Such petition shall be filed with the city secretary. Within 20 days after filing of such petition, the city secretary shall present said petition and proposed ordinance or resolution to the city council. Upon presentation to it of the petition and the draft of the proposed ordinance or resolution, it shall become the duty of the city council, within ten days after the receipt thereof, to pass and adopt such ordinance or resolution without alteration as to meaning or effect in the opinion of the persons filing the petition, or to call a special election, to be held as provided by applicable law, at which the qualified voters of the City of Watauga shall vote on the question of adopting or rejecting the proposed legislation.

However, if any other municipal election is to be held within 60 days after the filing of the petition, the question may be voted on at such election.

Sec. 6.03. - Referendum.

Qualified voters of the city may require that any ordinance or resolution, with the exception of ordinances or resolutions authorizing the issuance of either tax bonds or revenue bonds, whether original or refunding, passed and adopted by the city council be submitted to the qualified voters of the city for consideration of its repeal, by submitting a petition for this purpose within 90 days after final passage and adoption of said ordinance or resolution, or within 90 days after its publication. Said petition shall be addressed, prepared, signed, and verified as in the same form and manner as provided in section 6.02 of this Charter, and shall be submitted to the city secretary. Immediately upon the filing of such petition, the city secretary shall present said petition to the city council. Thereupon, the city council shall immediately consider the repeal of such ordinance or resolution, and if it does not entirely repeal the same, shall submit the consideration of repeal to popular vote in the same manner as provided in section 6.02 of this Charter. Pending the holding of such election, such ordinance or

resolution shall be suspended from taking effect and shall not later take effect unless a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon at such election shall vote against the repeal of same.

Should the popular vote be to uphold the ordinance or resolution, no other referendum election may be held on the same and/or similar ordinance or resolution within six months. But should the same and/or similar ordinance or resolution be passed, adopted and approved by the city council after invalidation by popular vote, a referendum petition may be filed again as outlined in article VI of this Charter.

Sec. 6.04. - Voluntary submission of legislation by the city council.

The city council, upon its own motion and by vote in accordance with the procedure set forth in section 3.09(c) of this Charter, may submit to popular vote at any election for adoption or rejection any proposed ordinance or resolution or measure, in the same manner and with the same force and effect as provided in this article for submission on petition, and may in its discretion call a special election as provided by applicable law for this purpose.

Sec. 6.05. - Form of ballots.

The ballots used when voting upon such proposed and referred ordinances, resolutions or measures, as provided in this article, shall set forth their nature sufficiently to identify them and shall also set forth upon separate lines the words:

"FOR THE ORDINANCE" and

"AGAINST THE ORDINANCE," or

"FOR THE RESOLUTION" and

"AGAINST THE RESOLUTION"

Sec. 6.06. - Publication of proposed and referred ordinance or resolution.

The city secretary shall publish at least once in the official newspaper of the City of Watauga, the notice of special initiative or referendum election, as applicable, and the preamble of proposed or referred ordinance or resolution, and shall give such other notices and do such other things relative to such election as are required in general municipal elections or by the ordinance or resolution calling said election.

Sec. 6.07. - Adoption of ordinances or resolutions.

If a majority of the qualified voters voting on a proposed ordinance or resolution or measure shall vote in favor thereof, it shall thereupon, or at any time fixed therein, become effective as a law or as a mandatory order of the city council.

Sec. 6.08. - Inconsistent ordinances or resolutions.

If the provisions of two or more proposed ordinances or resolutions passed at the same election are inconsistent, the ordinance or resolution receiving the highest number of votes shall prevail.

Sec. 6.09. - Ordinance or resolutions passed by popular vote, repeal or amendment.

No ordinance or resolution which may have been passed, adopted and approved by the city council as a result of popular vote under the provisions of this article shall be repealed or amended, except by the city council, in response to an initiative or referendum vote or as provided in this article.

Sec. 6.10. - Further regulations by city council.

The city council may pass, approve and adopt ordinances or resolutions providing other and further regulations for carrying out the provisions of this article not inconsistent herewith.”