

December 12, 1995

City Attorney Thumma presented for Council's consideration of a first reading an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 17-1-2 and Section 17-1-3 to the Harrisonburg City Code. Mr. Thumma explained that this ordinance will make appropriate changes in the Code to provide for the election of School Board members. He said presently the School Board consists of six members which are appointed for three year terms and two members are appointed every year. Based on the referendum held in November the ordinance will be amended to have an elected School Board. The School Board will remain the same consisting of six members of which three will be elected from the east and three from the west school districts. All the appointed members presently serving will continue to serve until their position is assumed by the person elected pursuant to Section 17-1-3 of the code. Each member at the time of the School Board election will have to be a qualified voter and a bona fide resident of the school district from which the member was elected and if the member shall cease to be a resident of such school district, the member's position would be deemed vacant. Under Section 17-1-3 members of the School Board will be elected at the same time as the municipal election of council members and once elected shall hold office for a term of four years from July 1 of the elected year. The first School Board election under this ordinance will be held the first Tuesday in May, 1996, providing that the ordinance is approved under the pre-clearance with the Department of Justice. The two members whose term will be expiring in June, 1996 will be eligible to run in the May election and there will be a drawing held by the Harrisonburg Board of Election to determine which member whose term will expire in 1997 will run in the May election. The remaining three candidates would be elected the first Tuesday in May, 1998. Every second year there after there would be a school board election for the members whose terms would be expiring. At every election all registered voters in the City will be entitled to vote *for* the School Board members. A vacancy in the office of School Board member shall be filled pursuant to the sections in the Code of Virginia which allows the Circuit Court Judge to appoint a person to assume the position and then run at the next election. Mr. Thumma said after the second reading has been held he will prepare a submission to the Department of Justice to be approved under the Voting Rights Act. The Department of Justice will have 60 days to review this proposal. A special Council meeting needs to be scheduled for the second reading. Council Member Weaver offered a motion to approve this ordinance for a first reading and to schedule a special meeting on December 19th at 9:00 a.m. for a second reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with unanimous recorded vote of Council.

December 19, 1995

Council Member Weaver offered a motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance amending and re-enacting Section 17-1-2 and 17-1-3 of the Harrisonburg City Code. The motion was seconded by Council Member Rogers, and approved with a unanimous recorded vote of Council.

October 9, 2001

Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion to table amending and re-enacting Section 17-1-2(a) and Section 17-2-3(b) of the Harrisonburg City Code. The motion was approved with a unanimous vote of Council. These amendments state that four School Board Members should be elected from the east school district and two School Board Members should be elected from the west school district. This action is necessary due to the 2000 census. Vice-Mayor Peterson suggested inviting the Electoral Board and the School Board to the next Council meeting to see if perhaps they wanted to make a presentation on maintaining this system or going to an at large system.

October 23, 2001

City Attorney Miller presented for Council's consideration amending and re-enacting Section 17-1-2(a) and Section 17-1-3(b) of the Harrisonburg City Code. He explained that these amendments are necessary due to the 2000 Census which showed that about twice as many people live east of Main Street as west of Main Street. The census showed that population was uneven and needs to be shifted. These amendments will allow four school board members to be elected from the east district and two school board members to be elected from the west district. The dividing line is U.S. Route 11. Following further discussion and comments, Council Member Fitzgerald offered a motion to adopt this ordinance for a first reading. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes – Vice-Mayor Peterson
Council Member Fitzgerald
Council Member Lantz
Council Member Rogers
Mayor Frank

Absent - None

November 13, 2001

Vice-Mayor Peterson offered a motion that Council resolve to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes and the second reading of several supplemental appropriations for the Police Department, Fire Department and the Hardesty Higgins House. The motion also included approving the second reading amending and re-enacting Section 17-1-(a), Section 17-1-3(b) and Section 14-1-69 of the Harrisonburg City Code. The recorded roll call vote was taken as follows:

Vote: Yes – Council Member Fitzgerald
Council Member Lantz
Council Member Rogers
Vice-Mayor Peterson
Mayor Frank

Absent - None

October 24, 2006

City Attorney Thumma presented for Council's consideration an ordinance enacting Section 1-1-14 and amending and re-enacting Section 17-1-3 of the Harrisonburg City Code. He said adoptions of these proposed ordinances will change the City Council and School Board elections from May to November. The first November General Election will be November 4, 2008 for the three incumbent City Council Members whose terms expire on June 30, 2008. The next November general election shall be November 2, 2010 for the two incumbent City Council Members whose terms expire on June 30, 2010. Adopting these two ordinances will make it necessary to enact a separate section to change the organizational meeting from July 1st until January 2nd.

At 7:08 p.m., Mayor Eagle closed the regular session temporarily and called the evening public hearing to order. The following notice appeared in the Daily News-Record on Friday, October 13, and Friday, October 20, 2006.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE
MOVING OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS
FROM MAY TO THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION**

The Harrisonburg City Council will hold a public hearing on October 24, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers located in the Municipal Building, 345 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia, concerning moving the City Council and City School Board elections from May to the November general election.

Copies of the proposed ordinances moving the elections from May to November are available in the City Manager's Office, 345 South Main Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P. M.

All persons interested will have an opportunity to express their views at this public hearing. Any person requiring auxiliary aids, including signers, in connection with this public hearing shall notify the City Manager at least five (5) days prior to the time of the hearing.

**CITY OF HARRISONBURG
Roger D. Baker
City Manager**

Mayor Eagle called anyone desiring to speak for or against enacting, amending and re-enacting these ordinances. There being no one desiring to be heard, the public hearing was declared closed at 7:09 p.m., and the regular session reconvened.

The following discussion by Council Members included: Low voter turnout in May and hopefully changing the date to November should increase voter participation. Holding one election instead of two could save a small amount of money. It will prevent newly elected officials from inheriting budgets approved by previous Councils. Council prefers and encourages higher voter participation. Vice-Mayor Pace offered a motion to adopt these ordinances for a first reading. The motion was seconded by Council Member Byrd, and approved with roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Vice-Mayor Pace
Council Member Chenault
Council Member Byrd
Council Member Frank
Mayor Eagle
Absent – None

November 14, 2006

Vice-Mayor Pace offered a motion to approve the consent agenda, including approval of the minutes and second reading of a supplemental appropriation for the Police Department and enacting Section 1-1-14 and amending and re-enacting Section 17-1-3 of the Harrisonburg City

Code. The motion also included referring an alley closing request by Funkhouser and Associates Properties to the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Council Member Chenault, and approved with a recorded roll call vote taken as follows:

Vote: Yes - Council Member Chenault

Council Member Byrd

Council Member Frank

Vice-Mayor Pace

Mayor Eagle

Absent – None