

ORDINANCE 746

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEXICO BEACH, FLORIDA, AMENDING § 31.25 OF THE CITY CODE TO START THE TERM OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ON THE DATE OF THE FIRST MEETING AFTER AN ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY, CODIFICATION, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 31.25 of the Mexico Beach City Code provides rules for City elections; and

WHEREAS, it provides that the term of office for a newly elected City Council member begins on the first Monday of June, despite that regular elections occur in mid-April and special elections may occur at any time during the year; and

WHEREAS, this lengthy “lame duck” period is unusual and has proven to be a poor system for the City and generally for the elected officials, resulting in less efficient governance following elections until new officials take office; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes terms of office to begin on the date of the first regularly scheduled City Council meeting following an election and hereby finds that this ordinance is in the best interest of the public health, safety, and welfare.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MEXICO BEACH, FLORIDA:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS OF FACT. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a part of this ordinance.

SECTION 2. AMENDMENTS TO CODE. From and after the effective date of this ordinance, Section 31.25 of the City Code of the City of Mexico Beach related to Terms of Office is amended to read as follows (new text **bold and underlined**, deleted text ~~struckthrough~~):

§ 31.25 TERM OF OFFICE.

(A) Pursuant to the results of the November 4, 2003 referendum, the terms of the elected officials presently serving in groups 1 through 5 shall be temporarily extended approximately six months so as to conform to the new election schedule.

(1) Specifically, group 1, 2, and 3 terms will not expire in December 2004 but will continue until expiration on the first Monday in June of 2005 following the April 2005 general election. Thereafter the terms in groups 1, 2, and 3 shall be for two years.

(2) The group 4 and 5 terms, as newly elected in November 2003, will not expire in December of 2005 but will continue until expiration on the first Monday in June 2006 following the April 2006 general election. Thereafter, the terms of groups 4 and 5 shall be for two years.

(3) Thereafter, all terms in groups 1 through 5 shall be for two years and the terms shall begin on ~~the first Monday of June~~ **the date of the first regularly scheduled City Council meeting** following the general or special election by the city.

(B) Pursuant to the results of the November 4, 2003 referendum, any required run-off election shall be held no later than the Tuesday immediately following the third Monday in May following the general election and no earlier than 14 days following the general election.

SECTION 3. SEVERABILITY. If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

SECTION 4. SCRIVENER'S ERROR. The city attorney may correct scrivener's errors found in this ordinance by filing a corrected copy of this ordinance with the city clerk.

SECTION 5. CODIFICATION. The appropriate officers and agents of the City are authorized and directed to codify, include and publish in electronic format the provisions of this Ordinance within the Mexico Beach Land Development Code. Section numbers may be assigned and changed whenever necessary or convenient.

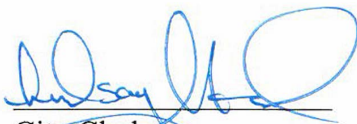
SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance takes effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Mexico Beach, Florida, this 5th day of May, 2020.



William A. Cathey, Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk