



CITY OF WAUKESHA

Administration

201 Delafield Street, Waukesha, WI 53188
 Tel: 262.524.3701 fax: 262.524.3899
 www.waukesha-wi.gov

Committee: None	Date:
Common Council Item Number: 20-0454	Date: 4/9/2020
Submitted By: Brian Running	City Administrator Approval: Kevin Lahner, City Administrator
Finance Department Review: Rich Abbott, Finance Director Click here to enter text.	City Attorney's Office Review: Brian Running, City Attorney BER
Subject: Ratify making in-person early voting by appointment only.	
Details: In-person early voting has been available to any walk-ins, without an appointment. Early voters tend overwhelmingly to be older people, age 65 and up, who are also the group most susceptible to serious illness caused by the coronavirus. As of March 24, the Clerk's Office was reporting as many as 250 people per day coming into City Hall for early voting, with lines forming and people unable to follow recommended social-distancing guidelines. To prevent the most-vulnerable segment of the population from being exposed unnecessarily to the virus, the Mayor issued an emergency order on March 24, making in-person early voting by appointment only, with no more than 5 persons admitted to City Hall at a time for voting. This is within the City's authority to do, per Wis. Stat. sec. 6.86(1)(b); however, notice of the hours available for early voting have to be posted by the 4 th Tuesday preceding the election. The City could not meet that posting requirement, but the decision to go to appointment-only was done under Wis. Stat. sec. 323.14(4), which gives cities "the general authority to order, by ordinance or resolution, whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of persons and property within the local unit of government..." and notice was given using the best means possible under the circumstances. The Common Council is now being asked to ratify this decision, pursuant to 323.14(4).	
Options & Alternatives: There are no recommended alternatives.	
Financial Remarks: There will be no financial impact to the City.	
Executive Recommendation: Ratify and approve the decision to make in-person early voting by appointment only.	

