



City of Waukesha
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Committee: Ordinance & License Committee	Date: 5/13/2024
Common Council Item Number: ID#	Date: Click here to enter a date.
Submitted By: Anthony Brown, City Administrator	City Administrator Approval: Click here to enter text.
Finance Department Review: Click here to enter text.	City Attorney's Office Review: Click here to enter text.
Subject: Discussion and Possible Action on the Selection Method of the City Attorney	

Details:

Per Wisconsin Statute 62.09(3)(b), there are six ways to select an officer other than the Mayor and Alderpersons. The City Attorney (CA) is one of those other officers. Currently, the method to select the CA is through an election by the voters every four years. The referral suggests either (1) an appointment by the Mayor; (2) an appointment by the Mayor, subject to confirmation of the Council; or (3) an appointment by the Council. For comparison, the other officers listed in 2.01.2 of the Municipal Code, Assessor and Clerk-Treasurer, are an appointment by the Mayor, subject to confirmation by the Council.

To clarify one bullet point in the referral memo about municipalities with elected municipal attorneys, their number has decreased. Out of over 1,900 Wisconsin municipalities, nine (9) have an elected municipal attorney – Appleton, Kaukauna, Lake Geneva, Milwaukee, Shawano, Sheboygan, Stevens Point, Wisconsin Rapids, and Waukesha

Discussion Considerations

- What method should the City Attorney be selected by?
- What selection method will provide the highest likelihood of having a qualified individual as the City Attorney?
- If the selection method is changed, who would the City Attorney report to?
- If the selection method became an appointment, would the term continue to be four (4) years? Or would it be an indefinite term, similar to all other appointments?

Options & Alternatives:

N/A

Financial Remarks:

No financial impact

Executive Recommendation:

For informational purposes only.