



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: 20-0441	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: Ratification of emergency order consolidating all polling places in the City to one location, at the Schuetze Recreation Building, and temporarily suspending Municipal Code sec 1.03, which designates polling places. Create Municipal Code sec. 1.07, temporarily designating Schuetze as the single polling place in Waukesha for the April 7, 2020 election.	
Details: <p>The recitals in the Mayor's emergency order explain the reasoning behind this matter. Essentially, we were caught in a tough spot, in that the DHS "Safer at Home" order ordered citizens to stay at home unless participating in an essential activity but did not define voting in an election as an essential activity, while at the same time the state required that an election take place. At the same time, there are not enough poll workers available to staff the usual 15 polling places, so in order to conduct an election with the limited number of personnel available, it was necessary to locate them all in one place. The Mayor ordered that voting is defined as an "Essential Government Function" to allow citizens to leave home to vote, and the Schuetze Rec Center was chosen as the sole polling place because of its size, configuration, and parking availability. Alternative options are extremely limited, this was the only practical choice in a city-owned building.</p> <p>The order was done pursuant to Wis. Stats. 323.14(4), which allows the City to do whatever is necessary and expedient for the health, safety, protection, and welfare of the citizens of Waukesha. Because this involves the suspension of an ordinance, it must be done by ordinance, so we have drafted an ordinance to create code section 1.07.</p> <p>This ratification will have to happen after the fact. Council ratification is still requested, in order to meet the requirements of chapter 323 of the state statutes, to make the suspension of sec. 1.03 official, and to show support for the emergency decision-making process.</p>	
Options & Alternatives: Not ratify the emergency order or create section 1.07. This is not recommended, as there were no practical alternatives to the action that was taken.	
Financial Remarks: There is no financial impact from a ratification.	
Executive Recommendation: Ratify the Mayor's order consolidating City polling places, designating voting as an Essential Government Function, and suspending WMC 1.03 for the April 7 election; and approve the creation of section 1.07 with a waiver of the three-reading rule.	

