

**THE CITY OF OKLAHOMA CITY
OFFICE OF
THE MUNICIPAL COUNSELOR**

Council Agenda
Item No. III. D
11/19/2024

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Kenneth Jordan, Municipal Counselor

1. Resolution appointing a qualified person to fill the vacancy in the office of Councilor from Ward 7 until a successor Councilor is elected by the voters of Ward 7 in the regular Council election or elections to be held in 2025; such appointment will become effective upon administration of the oath or affirmation of office to the appointee, as required by law;

AND/OR

2. Enter into executive session to discuss the appointment of a particular person to the office of Councilor for Ward 7, as authorized by 25 O.S. (2024 Supp.) §307(B)(1).

Background:

Article II, § 4 of the Oklahoma City Charter, as amended in 2021, provides in pertinent part:

Section 4. - Vacancies in the Council other than in the office of Mayor.

a) Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Council by reason of death, resignation, incapacity, or removal of a member, the Council shall, within 30 days after the occurrence of such vacancy, by a majority vote, appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy in the Council. The appointee shall serve in such capacity only until a person has been duly elected to fill the vacated office at a special or regular Council election as provided by Subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Within 30 days after the vacancy occurs, the Council shall call a special election to take place within the shortest period of time permitted by the election laws of the State of Oklahoma for the purpose of electing a person to fill the balance of the unexpired term of office. The person duly elected at said special election shall thereafter fill the balance of the unexpired term of office of the vacating Councilmember. Provided:

(1) If the vacancy in the Council occurs on or after July 1 in an even-numbered year and the regular Council election in the same ward will be held in the following year, then no special election shall be called and the person appointed under Subsection

(a) of this section shall serve until a successor is elected in that ward as a result of the regular election in the ward.* * *.

Councilor Nikki Nice resigned from the office of Ward 7 Councilor, with such resignation

effective on November 13, 2024. Therefore, the Mayor and Council must appoint a Councilmember for Ward 7 by not later than December 13, 2024, with such appointee to serve only until April 29, 2025, the remainder of unexpired term of Ms. Nice.

If approved, the Resolution would allow for the appointment of a qualified person as Ward 7 Councilor with the appointee to serve only until a successor Councilor has been elected by Ward 7 voters pursuant to the General Election to be held on February 11, 2025, and, if necessary, a Runoff Election to be held on April 1, 2025. The appointment will become effective upon the administration of the oath or affirmation of office as required by law.

Please note that blank lines have been left in the Resolution for the name of the appointee, which should be filled in by Council with the name of the appointee prior to final approval of the Resolution.