

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-_____

CITY OF TONTITOWN, WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

AN ORDINANCE CALLING FOR AN ELECTION IN THE CITY OF TONTITOWN, ARKANSAS ON THE QUESTION OF ELECTING THE TWO CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR EACH WARD TO FOUR YEAR TERMS AND PRESCRIBING OTHER MATTERS PERTAINING THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Tontitown has discovered that growth in the City and various other changes in the City have increased the complexity of governing significantly; and

WHEREAS, in order for an elected official to grasp and understand the needs of the citizens and to fully evaluate the capacity of city government to address those needs, requires great study and seeking experienced counsel in diverse disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Tontitown has determined that it would be in the best interest of the residents of the City to have the citizens determine if City Council Members should serve for four (4) years upon election to enable their elected officials adequate time to learn their responsibilities and be more productive in their roles as members of the Council.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TONTITOWN, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That there be, and there is hereby called, an election to be held on November 5th, 2024 at which election there shall be submitted to the electors of the City of Tontitown, Arkansas, the question of electing two council members from each ward to four year terms, which four year terms will be effective in 2026 for half the members elected in 2026 and thereafter as provided in Ark. Code Ann. § 14-43-312 (a)(2).

Section 2: The City Council hereby adopts four (4) year terms for City Council Members elected in 2026 and thereafter as provided in Ark. Code. Ann § 14-43-312 (a) (2), however, this Ordinance shall not be effective until after the election called in Section 1 above has been held and the four (4) year City Council Member terms has been approved by the voters.

Section 3: That the question of electing City Council Members to four (4) year terms shall be placed on the ballot for the election in substantially the following form:

The question presented is whether City Council Members for the City of Tontitown elected in 2026 and thereafter shall serve four (4) year terms rather than two year terms beginning in 2026 as provided by Ark. Code. Ann § 14-43-312.

**FOUR (4) YEAR CITY COUNCIL
TERMS**

Vote for or against electing City Council Members for each ward in the City of Tontitown for four (4) year terms to begin with half of those City Council Members elected to four (4) year terms at the general election held in November 2026 and with the other half of those City Council Members elected to four (4) year terms at the general election in 2028.

FOR FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ()

AGAINST FOUR (4) YEAR TERMS FOR CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS ()

Section 4: That the election shall be held and conducted and the vote canvassed and the results declared under the law and in the manner now provided for municipal elections unless otherwise provided in the Authorizing Legislation and only qualified voters of the City shall have the right to vote at the election.

Section 5: That the result of the election shall be proclaimed by the Mayor, and his Proclamation shall be published one time in a newspaper published in the City and having a bonafide circulation therein, which Proclamation shall advise that the results as proclaimed shall be conclusive unless attacked in the courts within thirty (30) days after the date of publication.

Section 6: That a copy of this ordinance shall be given to the Washington County Board of Election Commissioners so that the necessary election officials and supplies may be provided.

Section 7: The Mayor and Clerk/Treasurer, for and on behalf of the City, be and they are hereby authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary to call and hold the election as herein provided.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day _____, 2024.

APPROVED:

Angela Russell, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda Ardemagni, City Clerk-Treasurer
(SEAL)