

# ELECTION UPDATE

The deadline to file for a place on the May 8, 2010 ballot was as of 5:00 p.m. today, March 8, 2010.

The results that are listed below are in position order and then listed alphabetically. The drawing for the place on the ballot will be held on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. in Totten Hall.

| <b>POSITION</b>        | <b>CANDIDATE</b>                          |
|------------------------|---|
| Mayor                  | Don Williams                              |
| Councilmember Place #1 | Bill Pickard<br>Jim Ryno<br>Linda C. Wier |
| Councilmember Place #3 | Rusty Crawford<br>Joe Summers             |

There will also be a proposition on the ballot:

For or Against the Proposition: The governing body of the municipality of Meadowlakes appointing a city manager and setting by ordinance the salary of the manager.

The next two pages provide information about the proposition. This information will also be provided to each resident via the 2010 Spring Newsletter which will be mailed out shortly. However, I am taking this opportunity to share the information with you slightly earlier.

Kind Regards,

*/s/ Linda A. Wendling*  
City Secretary

# PROPOSITION TO CHANGE THE CITY OF MEADOWLAKES FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Voters of Meadowlakes will have an opportunity to change how their city is governed at the City’s May 8, 2010 General & Special Election. Voters will be asked to vote on a proposition to determine if the current **Mayor-Council** form of government should be changed to a **Council-City Manager** form of government as authorized per Sections 25.001 of the Texas Local Government Code. A group of Meadowlakes citizens solicited signatures on a petition, which requested such a decision be presented to the voters. The City Secretary received the petition in early February, and after review found it to be proper in-form and having met the requirements of the aforementioned Government Code. The petition was certified and presented to Council at its February meeting. Council called for the proposition to be placed on the ballot for the May 8, 2010 City General & Special Election.

If a majority of the votes cast in this election favor the adoption of the **Council-City Manager** form of government, the council must, within 60 days, appoint a **City Manager**. This election outcome will result in the elimination of the City Administrator position, which will be replaced by the City Manager position. The proposition will read as follows on the ballot:

**“For or Against the Proposition: The governing body of the municipality of Meadowlakes appointing a City Manager and setting by ordinance the salary of the manager.”**

A vote **FOR** the Proposition will replace the existing **Council-Mayor** form of government with a **Council-City Manager** form of government.

A vote **AGAINST** will maintain the existing **Council-Mayor** form of government augmented by the **City Administrator**.

The purpose of this paper is to provide a general overview comparison of the two forms of city government.

## Comparing a **Mayor-Council** and **Council-City Manager** Form of Government

| Authority/Responsibility        | <b>Mayor-Council</b>   | <b>Council-City Manager</b>  |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| Legislative authority           | Council  | Council  |
| Executive authority (CEO)       | Elected Mayor  | Appointed City Manager acting as (CEO)   |
| Selection of CEO                | Mayor by city wide majority election   | City Manager appointed by council on basis of experience   |
| Removal of CEO Manager          | None (with very limited exceptions)  | Removed by majority vote of council  |
| Tenure of executive (CEO)       | Mayor’s elected term of office   | Indefinite at the discretion of council  |
| Appointment of department heads | Mayor (with council confirmation as required)  | Manager with exception of legal council and court judges   |
| Policy Development              | Mayor can propose  | City Manager can propose   |
| Policy approval                 | Council  | Council  |
| Policy implementation           | Mayor  | City Manager   |
| Underlying principles           | Consolidation of powers: political leadership and strong central elected executive as one position | Separation of political and policy leadership from City management & administration, promotion of economy, efficiency, and continuity by use of a specially trained professional as city manager |

## Additional References

1. Texas Municipal League "Handbook for Mayors and Council Members, Chapter 1. [http://www.tml.org/pub\\_handbooks.asp](http://www.tml.org/pub_handbooks.asp)
2. Texas Local Government Code Chapter 25.
3. Texas City Managers Association <http://www.tcma.org/>.

## Conclusion

The intent of the above information is to provide you, the voting public, with a comparison relative to the proposition being presented for your consideration at the City's May 2010 General/Special Election.

A vote **FOR** the proposition will change the existing **Mayor-Council** form of government to the **Council-City Manager** form of government. This will shift the executive management and administrative duties currently under the authority of the Mayor to a council appointed City Manager who will then assume responsibility of the day-to-day management and administration of the City's functions, personnel and related activities.

A vote **AGAINST** the proposition will maintain the existing **Mayor-Council** form of government, this form of government being a strong mayor acting as the City's Chief Executive Office (CEO) assisted in the day-to-day management and administration by an appointed City Administrator.

(John Aaron, Mayor)