SUBJECT: Consideration of Residency Requirements for Appointment to City Committees and Commissions

SOURCE: CITY MANAGER

The City Council asked that the matter of a residency requirement for appointment to City Committees and Commissions be placed before the Council for consideration.

The Council does have City Code requirements for appointing city residents only to the Library Board and the Park and Leisure Services Commission. For the Library, Section 14-3 specifies “There is hereby created a library board of trustees consisting of five (5) members, who shall be residents of the City of Porterville.” The language is very similar for the Park and Leisure Services Commission in Section 19-2 “There is hereby created a park and leisure services commission, and shall be composed of seven (7) members, who shall be residents of the City of Porterville.”

The City Charter requires elective officers to be residents. It specifies at Section 7 “In order to be eligible to hold any elective office in the City of Porterville, a person must be a resident and elector therein, and shall have resided in said city for at least thirty days next preceding the filing of their nominating papers, or equivalent declaration or candidacy, and an elector at the time of said filing.” References for appointment committee members have not been found in the City Charter.

When appointments are considered by the City Council, staff has attempted when requested to provide residency status for the candidates. It has not, however, been a consistent consideration.

The Council’s interest in this issue stated at the Council Meeting was to review the status of residency considerations when appointments are considered. There are several options which include:

• Do not require its consideration except for the Park and Leisure Services Commission and Library Board

• Require that residency be declared for any application. If this is the case, to facilitate consideration, a questionnaire should be completed for all candidates with the Chief Deputy City Clerk.

• By Code, define and/or redefine residency requirements for some or all City commissions, committees, and boards