

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
City of La Crosse
April 3, 2012

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at an election to be held in the City of La Crosse, on April 3, 2012, the following proposed Ordinance of the City of La Crosse will be submitted to a vote of the people:

ORDINANCE

A CHARTER ORDINANCE to create Section 2.51 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of La Crosse creating the position, duties and responsibilities of the Office of City Administrator and removing duties from the Office of Mayor.

THE COMMON COUNCIL of the City of La Crosse do ordain as follows:

SECTION I: Section 2.51 is hereby created to read as follows:

2.51 **OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR**

(A) **OFFICE OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR.** In order to provide the City of La Crosse with a more efficient, effective and responsible government at a time when city government is becoming increasingly complex, there is hereby created the Office of City Administrator for the City of La Crosse.

(B) **APPOINTMENT, TERM OF OFFICE AND REMOVAL.** The administrator shall be appointed on the basis of merit with due regard to training, experience, administrative ability and general fitness for the office, by a majority vote of those present and voting of the Common Council. The administrator shall hold office for an indefinite term at the pleasure of the Council subject to removal at any time in accordance with state law. The Council may establish other employment terms and conditions consistent with the provisions of this ordinance or the Municipal Code of the City of La Crosse.

(C) **RESIDENCY.** The administrator shall become a resident of the City of La Crosse within three (3) months following the date of appointment, unless this requirement is specifically waived or varied by the Common Council, and entered into with the administrator, covering the terms and conditions of residency.

(D) **QUALIFICATIONS.** The administrator shall have a Bachelor of Arts or Science Degree and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, Public Finance or closely related field from an accredited university and have at least five (5) years of experience in City or County Government as a City Administrator, City Manager, County Administrator or related position.

(E) **FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.** The administrator, subject to the limitations defined in resolutions and ordinances of the City of La Crosse and Wisconsin State Statutes, shall be the chief administrative officer of the City, responsible only to the Common Council for proper administration of the business affairs of the City, pursuant to the statutes of the State of Wisconsin, the ordinances of the City of La Crosse, and the resolutions and directives of the Common Council, with power and duties as follows:

(1) **General Duties.**

(a) Carry out policy directives of the Common Council established by resolution or ordinance which require administrative implementation, reporting promptly to the Common

Council any difficulties encountered herein;

(b) Be responsible for the administration and supervision of all day-to-day operations and management of City government including the monitoring and enforcement of all City ordinances, resolutions and state statutes and that all Department Heads and employees discharge their duties;

(c) Prepare a plan of administration, including an organizational plan, which defines authority and responsibility for all non-statutory positions of the City; and submit it to the Common Council for adoption as the official organization and administrative procedure plan for the City;

(d) Establish administrative procedures to measure and to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of City government according to current practices in local government, not inconsistent with subsection (c) above or policy directives of the Common Council which are established by resolution or ordinance;

(e) Serve as ex-officio non-voting member of all boards, commissions and committees of the City, except as specified by the Common Council or Wisconsin State Statutes;

(f) Keep informed concerning current federal, state and county legislation and administrative rules affecting the City and submit appropriate reports and recommendations thereon to the Common Council;

(g) Keep informed concerning the availability of federal, state, county and nonprofit grants and funds for local programs and initiatives. Assist Department Heads and the Common Council in obtaining these funds under the direction of the Common Council;

(h) Represent the City in all matters involving legislative and intergovernmental affairs as authorized and directed as to that representation by the Common Council;

(i) Act as public information officer for the City with the responsibility of ensuring that the news media are kept informed about the operations of the City and along with the City Clerk and City Attorney that all open meeting rules and regulations are followed;

(j) Establish and maintain procedures to facilitate communications between citizens and City government to ensure that complaints, grievances, recommendations and other matters receive prompt attention by the responsible official, and to ensure that all such matters are expeditiously resolved;

(k) Promote the economic well-being and growth of the City through public and private sector cooperation.

(2) Responsibilities to the Common Council.

(a) Attend all meetings of the Common Council, assisting the Council as required in the performance of its duties.

(b) In coordination with the Common Council, City Clerk and City Attorney, ensure that appropriate agendas are prepared for all meetings of the Common Council, all Council committees, and all other appropriate committees and commissions of the City, together with such supporting material as may be required; with nothing herein being construed as to give the administrator authority to limit or in any way prevent matters from being considered by the Council, or any of its committees or commissions.

(c) Coordinate the preparation of ordinances and resolutions as requested by the Common Council and Department Heads.

(d) Keep the Common Council and Mayor regularly informed about the activities of the administrator's office and all City operations by oral or written report at regular and special meetings of the Council.

(3) Personnel.

(a) Be responsible for the evaluation, administrative and supervisory direction and coordination of all employees of the City according to the established organization procedures.

(b) Consistent with the statutes of the State of Wisconsin, recommend to the Common Council the appointment, promotion, and when necessary for the good of the City, the suspension or removal of Department Heads.

(c) In consultation with the Director of Human Resources see that complete and current personnel records, including specific job descriptions, for all City employees are kept; evaluate in conjunction with Department Heads the performance of all employees on a regular basis; recommend salary and wage scales for City employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements; develop and enforce high standards of performance by City employees; ensure that City employees have proper working conditions; work closely with Department Heads to promptly resolve personnel problems or grievances;

(d) In cooperation with the appropriate Department Heads and Director of Human Resources and after following City policies and procedures, make a recommendation to the appropriate City officers regarding the appointment, promotion, and when necessary for the good of the City, the suspension or termination of employees below the Department Head level.

(e) Manage and assist in labor contract negotiations and collective bargaining issues.

(f) Work closely with Department Heads to ensure that employees receive adequate opportunities for training to maintain and improve their job-related knowledge and skills and act as the approving authority for requests by employees to attend conferences, meetings, training schools, etc., provided that funds have been budgeted for these activities.

(4) Finances, Budgeting and Purchasing.

(a) Be responsible for the preparation of the annual City operating budget, including capital budget, in accordance with City Ordinances and guidelines as may be provided by the Common Council and in coordination with Department Heads, pursuant to state statutes, for review and approval by the Common Council.

(b) Administer the budget as adopted by the Common Council.

(c) Report regularly to the Common Council on the current fiscal position of the City.

(d) Direct, manage and supervise the accounting system of the City and ensure that the system employs methods in accordance with current professional accounting practices.

(e) Direct, manage and administer the City's purchasing ordinance, policies and procedures including all purchasing and contracting for supplies and services subject to the purchasing ordinance and procedures established by the Common Council and any limitation contained in the Wisconsin State Statutes.

(5) Cooperation.

(a) All officers and employees of the City shall cooperate with and assist the administrator so that the City government shall function effectively and efficiently.

SECTION II: The provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed severable and it is expressly declared that the Common Council of the City of La Crosse would have passed the other provisions of this ordinance irrespective of whether or not one or more provisions may be declared invalid; and if any provisions of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid, the remainder of the ordinance and the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION III: This charter ordinance specifically removes those duties from the Office of Mayor to oversee the day-to-day operations, management and administration of the City of La Crosse that are found under § 62.09(8)(a), Wis. Stat. Any charter provision or any previously enacted ordinance or charter ordinance inconsistent or in conflict with this ordinance is expressly repealed.

SECTION IV: This charter ordinance shall take effect sixty (60) days after its passage and publication subject to the provisions of Section 66.0101(5) Wis. Stat.

The question will appear on the ballot as follows:

QUESTION

Shall the Charter of the City of La Crosse be amended by creating Section 2.51 of the Code of Ordinances to establish the position, duties and responsibilities of the Office of City Administrator and remove duties from the Office of Mayor?

EXPLANATION

A “Yes” vote is in favor of adopting a Charter Ordinance to create the Office of City Administrator and remove certain duties from the Office of Mayor.

A “No” vote is opposed to adopting a Charter Ordinance to create the Office of City Administrator and remove certain duties from the Office of Mayor.

In the event a majority of the electors voting vote “Yes” in the referendum, the Charter Ordinance will become effective; if a majority vote “No” in the referendum, the Charter Ordinance will not become effective.

Done in the City of La Crosse
on March 12, 2012.

Teri Lehrke, WCPC
City Clerk

Publish: April 1, 2012
1 Affidavit