Instant Runoff Alternative Two
One Vote Counted – Sequential Elimination

6.1 OVERVIEW

Instant Runoff voting for City Council is also a majoritarian voting method using ranked choice voting designed to accommodate multiple candidates seeking two open seats. The ballots are counted in two consecutive instant runoff voting elections. Each voter may rank candidates by preference from first choice to last choice. Using the rules set forth herein, the first seat is elected. A second instant runoff voting tally is held to elect the second seat, following the procedures detailed below.

6.2 THRESHOLD.

6.2.1 a. <u>Initial Threshold</u>.

At the commencement of the vote tabulation, the City Clerk shall certify the total number of votes cast for City Council and the number required to be elected to a seat on the City Council, which by Charter is defined as fifty percent (50%) of the total ballots casts for city council plus one vote. All ballots with a counted first (1st) ranking for a candidate for City Council shall be counted in the total number of votes cast. Blank ballots for City Council shall not be counted in this total. By way of example, if 2000 ballots are cast in the election, including four blank ballots for City Council, then a candidate will need the highest number or second highest number of votes of all the candidates and at least 999 votes in order to be deemed a winner of a council seat. (((2000-4))2) + 1 = 999). This number shall be referred to below as the "initial threshold".

6.2.1 b. <u>Subsequent Rounds</u>.

The threshold shall be recalculated for each Round of the tabulation. The Clerk shall count all of the ballots that cast a vote for any candidate who is remaining in a round. If a ballot does not cast a vote for any candidate remaining in a round that ballot shall be deemed a blank ballot. Blank ballots for shall not be counted in this threshold total. By way of example, if 2000 votes were cast in the election with four blank votes for City Council, then the threshold is 999, as set forth above. If after the initial tabulation, 6 additional ballots did not rank any of the remaining candidates for the round being counted, those ballots shall also be deemed blank. Thus, the threshold would be 996. (((2000-4-6))2) + 1 = 996).

6.2.1 c. <u>Miscellaneous Threshold Rules</u>.

In the event that the number of ballots cast is odd, fifty percent is a fraction. The next whole number shall be deemed the threshold.   By way of example. If 2000 votes are cast and five are deemed blank ballots the threshold shall be 998. ((2000-5))2 = 997.5. The next whole number is 998.)

6.3 TABULATION OF VOTES FOR FIRST COUNCIL SEAT

All first choice rankings that are cast shall be counted as one vote for the candidate who received that vote. The candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated, and all ballots are recounted as one vote for each voter's highest-ranked continuing candidate. This process of eliminating last-place candidates and recounting ballots continues until one candidate has reached the threshold set forth herein. In the event that there are two or more candidates with the lowest vote total, all such candidates shall be eliminated, so long as the tabulation can continue. In the event such tie leaves only one candidate continuing but such candidate has not reached the threshold, then the tie must be resolved pursuant to the tie breaker set forth below so that at least two candidates continue. The candidate who reaches the threshold set forth herein shall be deemed elected to one City Council seat. The tabulation shall then continue to determine the winner of the second City Council seat, as set forth below.

6.4 TABULATION OF VOTES FOR SECOND COUNCIL SEAT

Upon determining the winner of the first city council seat, the winner of the first seat is eliminated and any ballot with that candidate ranked first shall be counted as a first choice ranking for the candidate ranked second on the ballot. All first choice rankings then are counted as one vote for the candidate who received that vote. The candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated, and all ballots are recounted as one vote for each voter's highest-ranked continuing candidate. This process of eliminating last-place candidates and recounting ballots continues until one candidate receives the threshold set forth herein. The candidate who reaches the threshold set forth herein shall be deemed elected to the second City Council seat and the election shall be completed.

6.5   DETERMINATION OF TIE VOTES.

In the event that a tie exists at any level of the proceeding that would prevent moving forward without a resolution of the tie, the tie shall be resolved pursuant to this section.

The first tie-breaker shall be based upon the number of first choice rankings, with the candidate with the largest number of first choice rankings being determined the winner

of the tie breaker. In the event that that number shall be tied, then the winner shall be determined by lot pursuant to Colorado State Statute, C.R.S. Section 31-10-1204.