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Twinsburg — The issues are not necessarily controversial, but the process that placed them on the ballot is becoming so.

Because of an oversight on required public notice for election issues, city officials say that a public vote for or against Issues 62, 63 and 64 will be rendered moot.

Twinsburg's charter requires the city to place a legal advertisement in a general circulation publication, providing information about any proposed charter amendments that will be on an upcoming ballot, Council President Gary Sorace explained.

No such advertisements were placed, a key oversight made evident Nov. 1 by Twinsburg resident and Council watchdog Sally Gaydosh.

"There are many people who rely on these advertisements to help them understand what the charter amendments will do," Gaydosh said Nov. 1. "I have witnessed people take the newspapers into the polls with them to help them decide how to vote.

"If the city isn't following the charter, what is the point of even having a charter?"

"This was just an oversight, it's not that the city was trying to hide anything," Sorace said. "Still, the law was not followed and this needs to be corrected."

Sorace said Nov. 2 that because it is too late to place the advertisements before the Nov. 8 election, the city will likely place the issues a second time on the May ballot.

Regardless of the public vote Nov. 8, the issues will not be valid, and will not officially amend the charter, Sorace said.

Issue 62 is a charter change that would remove both the police and fire chiefs from the list of civil service employees and make them part of the city's unclassified staff, allowing the mayor to appoint future applicants to the positions rather than having applicants take civil service exams and go through interviews with the civil service commission.

Issue 63 is a companion amendment to Issue 62, and its passage would change a section of the charter that states that all members of the police and fire department are appointed through the civil service commission. The amendment would change the language to state that all members of the department who are below the rank of chief are appointed through civil service criteria.

Issue 64 would prohibit outdoor furnaces throughout the city.

— Compiled by Reporter Emily Canning-Dean