

CITY OF PARK FALLS

RESOLUTION NO. 19-005

Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to limit campaign spending and recognize only human beings as having constitutional rights.

WHEREAS, a September 9, 2019 a petition was presented to this Common Council with 129 signatures supporting a constitutional amendment for recognizing that human beings are endowed with constitutional rights not corporations, unions, nonprofits, or other artificial entities; and,

WHEREAS, that same petition supports the recognition that, money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech; and,

WHEREAS, government of, by, and for the people has long been a cherished American value, and;

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to democracy and effective self-governance, and;

WHEREAS, it is this Council's opinion that corporations are not and never have been human beings or persons, and therefore are rightfully subservient to human beings and governments as our legal creations; and rightly are provided only privileges by the states; and,

WHEREAS, interpretation of the U.S. Constitution by appointed Supreme Court Justices to include corporations in the term "persons" has long denied 'We the People's' exercise of self-governance by endowing corporations with Constitutional protections intended by the Framers for only 'We the People'; and,

WHEREAS, recognized by this Council, in 1976 in the ruling on Buckley v. Valeo, that the decision of the Supreme Court changed the course of American elections and established the doctrine that spending money to influence elections is a form of speech; and,

WHEREAS, recognized by this Council, on January 10, 2010 in Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission, the Supreme Court overturned a century of precedence by ruling that corporate spending on elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Park Falls, Wisconsin, acknowledges the expansion of corporate personhood rights and the potential influence of unregulated political contributions and spending; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this Council recognizes the 129 citizens who have signed a petition, and the City of Park Falls stands with communities across the country to support passage of an amendment to the United States Constitution stating the following:

1. Only human beings are endowed with constitutional rights – not corporations, unions, nonprofits, other artificial entities, and the like; and,
2. Money is not speech, and therefore limiting political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting speech.

Adopted this 14th day of October 2019.
APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Michael Bablick, Mayor

Brentt P. Michalek, Administrator-Clerk