

**CITY OF BELLE SLE, FLORIDA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

Meeting Date: August 1, 2023
To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Chief Grimm, Interim City Manager
Subject: Board and Committee Vacancies

Background: At several Council meetings, the staff stated that the City has had difficulty filling vacancies on several Committees and Advisory Boards. The City Council changed the guidelines for positions to be served at large and advertised many times for candidates; however, no one from those Districts or at large applied.

Some of the Board have been unable to meet because they cannot meet the quorum, or some members have missed more than 3-consecutive meetings and have caused challenges in discussion on necessary agenda items. In March 2021-Resolution 21-02, the Council changed the filling of vacancies as follows;

A. Must be a resident from each of the City's districts unless no candidate from the relevant District is available, including candidates to fill vacancies appointed according to Section 9

Board members have requested staff to communicate to the City Council representatives who have vacancies and non-participating Budget Committee members to begin to seek out new applicants. Some members have missed 3-4 meetings, and the Board members ask that those seats be forfeited and re-appointed.

Staff noted that the Planning & Zoning Board seat has been vacant for over a year, and, at this time, the Code allows for an at-large appointment. The Code reads,

Vacancies on the board. Any vacancy occurring during the unexpired term of office of any planning and zoning board member shall be filled by the Council for the remainder of the term within 45 days after the vacancy occurs. The vacancy will be advertised to fill the vacancy by the District; however, if no candidate applies for that vacancy, the Council may fill the vacancy from at-large candidates who are city residents regardless of district residency. The vacancies are as follows,

| Committee | Active Members | OPEN Seats | At-Large / By District | Forfeit & Re-appoint |
|-------------------|----------------|------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Budget | 6 | - | By District | 2 - D3, D7 |
| Comp Plan | 1 | 6 | By District | - |
| Planning & Zoning | 6 | 1-D3 | By District | - |
| Solid Waste | 2 | 5 | At-Large | - |
| Tree Board | 2 | 5 | At-Large | - |
| Transportation | 3 | 4 | By District | |

Staff Recommendation: Resend Elert on Board/Committee Vacancies for 30 days or until filled.

Suggested Motion: I move to have staff send an elert for the open positions at large.

Alternatives: If the Council does not receive any interest from the public, they request that the appointed board members be changed to 5 members-at-large or dissolve the Committee(s).

Fiscal Impact: None, as these are voluntary positions.

Attachments: None