



STAFF REPORT
12/14/2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
FROM: Gabriel Perez, Development Services Director
SUBJECT: Consideration to Fill Five Planning Commission Vacancies

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Mayor and City Council solicit applications to fill five vacancies on the Planning Commission.

BACKGROUND:

The Coachella Planning Commission is made up of five members and one alternative member, who are appointed to 4-year terms that are staggered. Accordingly, every two years, three commissioners must be newly appointed. The Coachella Municipal Code 2.26.020 (B), states that each council member may nominate an individual to serve on each city commission and committee subject to appointment by the mayor, with approval by the city council, at open session of a regular or special city council meeting. If a council member fails to nominate an individual, the mayor may appoint someone with approval by the city council. The Coachella Municipal Code 2.26.020 (D), states that in an event of an interim vacancy, the council member who nominated the vacating member may nominate another individual, subject to appointment by the mayor with approval by the city council, for the unexpired term of the member replaced. There is no individual council member nomination for the Alternate Planning Commissioner.

The terms for Planning Commissioner Miguel Navarrete (Nominated by Mayor Pro Tem Gonzalez), Miguel Leal and Ventura Gutierrez expired November 2022 and they are currently serving as Commissioners until the City Council nominates and approves candidates to serve for the next Planning Commissioner 4-year term. Two other vacancies have occurred due to the recent election of Councilmembers Virgen and Figueroa to the City Council who previously serves as Planning Commissioners. The terms of those vacancies will need to be filled until November 2024.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Accordingly, the City Council has the following options to approve a vacancy in the Planning Commission.

- 1) Solicit applications to fill the 5 existing vacancies on the Planning Commission
- 2) Immediately appoint two (2) regular Planning Commission members and one (1) alternative to serve until November 2026. Appoint two (2) regular Planning Commission members to serve the remainder term to November 2024 vacated by Councilmembers Virgen and Figueroa.
- 3) Continue this item and provide staff direction.

Planning Commissioners	Term Status	Term action required
Ruben Gonzalez	June 26, 2019-November 2024	None required
Vacancy (Currently served by Miguel Navarrete)	Expired (June 26, 2019-November 2022)	2022- November 2026
Vacancy (Vacated by Frank Figueroa)	Expired (February 10, 2021-November 2024)	Remainder term to November 2024
Vacancy (Vacated by Stephanie Virgen)	Expired (June 26, 2019-November 2024)	Remainder term to November 2024
Vacancy (Currently served by Miguel Leal)	Expired	2022- November 2026
Vacancy (Currently served by Ventura Gutierrez (Alternate))	Expired (February 23, 2022-November 2022)	2022- November 2026

FISCAL IMPACT:

There are no direct fiscal impacts by appointment of Planning Commissioners on the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2022/2023.

RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE(S):

There are no direct fiscal impacts by appointment of Planning Commissioners on the adopted budget for Fiscal Year 2021/2022.