



**BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF MERCER ISLAND**

**AB 6460
May 7, 2024
Regular Business**

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

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| TITLE: | AB 6460: Reconstitution of the Planning Commission – Consideration of Amendments to MICC, Chapter 3.46 (Ordinance No. 24C-06, Second Reading and Adoption) | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution |
| RECOMMENDED ACTION: | Complete second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 24C-06. | |

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| DEPARTMENT: | City Manager |
| STAFF: | Jessi Bon, City Manager Jeff Thomas, CPD Director |
| COUNCIL LIAISON: | n/a |
| EXHIBITS: | 1. Ordinance No. 24C-06 – MICC, Chapter 3.46 Amendments |
| CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY: | n/a |

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| AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE | \$ 31,500 |
| AMOUNT BUDGETED | \$ n/a |
| APPROPRIATION REQUIRED | \$ n/a |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to present to City Council Ordinance No. 24C-06 (Exhibit 1) containing the directed amendments from the April 16, 2024 Council meeting to Mercer Island Municipal Code (MICC) [Chapter 3.46](#) for the reconstitution of the Planning Commission.

- After discussing the Community Planning and Development Department’s land use work plan on March 1, 2024 the City Manager was directed to bring a proposal to City Council on April 2, 2024, aiming to reconstitute the Planning Commission.
- On April 2, 2024 the City Manager presented various options for reconstitution of the Planning Commission to the City Council for consideration.
- The City Council discussed and selected various options and further directed staff to bring back an ordinance on April 16, 2024 for first reading containing these selected options to amend MICC, Chapter 3.46 to reconstitute the Planning Commission.
- City Council completed first reading of Ordinance No. 24C-06 on April 16, 2024 and moved to schedule second reading of this Ordinance as amended for May 7, 2024.

BACKGROUND

The City Council conducted a Planning Session on March 1, 2024, which included an overview of the Community Planning and Development Department's land use work plan ([AB 6428](#)). To increase land use planning capacity and efficiency as well as provide additional direction to work program priorities, the City Council made several motions including the following:

Planning Commission Reconstitution

Approved Motion: Direct the City Manager to bring a proposal to City Council at its regular meeting on April 2, aiming to reconstitute the Planning Commission. The new composition shall include four (4) land use professionals not affiliated with Mercer Island entities or interests, to be compensated for their dedicated time, and three (3) laypersons who are Mercer Island residents. The proposal must specify the effective date, detail the range of the number of meetings that will occur annually, outline the annual cost, and describe any necessary amendments to the Mercer Island Municipal Code (MICC).

On April 2, 2024, the City Manager and Community Planning and Development Director presented various options for reconstitution of the Planning Commission to the City Council for consideration ([AB 6441](#)). The City Council discussed and selected various options and further directed staff to bring back an ordinance on April 16, 2024, for first reading containing these selected options to amend MICC, Chapter 3.46 to reconstitute the Planning Commission.

On April 16, the City Council completed first reading of Ordinance No. 24C-06 and moved to schedule second reading of this Ordinance as amended for May 7, 2024 ([AB 6454](#)).

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

The following amendments have been made to Ordinance No. 24C-06 (Exhibit 1) from either City Council direction at first reading or final City Attorney review since first reading on April 16, 2024. These amendments are highlighted in the ordinance in yellow for ease of reference:

Ordinance Amendments

1. Third whereas statement typo corrected to read, "chapter 3.46~~5~~ MICC".
2. Section (1.) language struck in MICC 3.46.030(B)(3) to read, "*The term of each member is four years and expires on May 31 of the last year of the term or until the member's successor is appointed.*"
3. Section (2.) effective date amended to "January ~~15~~, 2025".
4. A new Section (3.) "End of Terms. Terms of members serving on the Planning Commission between June 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024 shall expire on December 31, 2024."
5. Original sections (3.) and (4.) renumbered to (4.) and (5.).

Ordinance, Exhibit A Amendments

6. MICC 3.46.030(A)(1) language struck to read, "An individual not affiliated with Mercer Island entities or interests with a minimum of five years of experience in land use planning ~~as well as five years of such experience~~ in the State of Washington."
7. MICC 3.46.030(A)(3) language struck to read, "An individual with a minimum of three years of experience in land use planning ~~as well as three years of such experience~~ in the State of Washington."

8. A new MICC 3.46.030(A)(4) “Any vacancy may be filled by a resident lay person if unable to find a qualified paid practitioner. If two resident paid practitioners apply, the council should give preference to appointing resident paid practitioner applicants for any open non-resident practitioner positions.”
9. MICC 3.46.030(E) amended to read, “Paid practitioners shall be compensated five hundred dollars (\$500) per meeting of the planning commission attended (Regular or Special).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 24C-06 amending MICC Chapter 3.46 to reconstitute the Planning Commission.