



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5810
February 2, 2021
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5810: City Council Sustainability Committee Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Reinstate the City Council Sustainability Committee and discuss its role and operating procedures.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Benson Wong, Mayor
COUNCIL LIAISON:	Salim Nice Craig Reynolds
EXHIBITS:	n/a
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	1. Prepare for the impacts of growth and change with a continued consideration on environmental sustainability.

AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE	\$ n/a
AMOUNT BUDGETED	\$ n/a
APPROPRIATION REQUIRED	\$ n/a

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to discuss reinstatement of the City Council Sustainability Committee.

BACKGROUND

The City Council Sustainability Committee was formed in 2008 to help the City enact the greenhouse gas reduction goals contained in [Resolution No. 1389](#) (adopted May 2007) - namely to cut emissions by 80% below current levels (i.e. 2007) by 2050, in alignment with King County targets. The Committee informed the full City Council on policies, programs, grants, and advocacy opportunities that promote sustainability, and also helped refine items for a sustainability work plan. Meetings were usually once per month, though were often less frequent depending on the topics queued up for discussion. Starting in 2013, the Committee was also supported by a 0.4 FTE sustainability staff position as time and workload allowed. Following internal Council debate on whether to continue the Committee, it was temporarily suspended in early 2020 pending full discussion in a public session. That suspension has continued until now due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

At its November 2, 2020 meeting, and as part of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget process, the City Council funded a full time Sustainability Program Analyst (see [AB 5775](#) and the title change adopted in the corresponding [minutes](#)) as part of the Public Works Department to design and oversee on-the-ground

implementation of sustainability programs, measures, and outreach as well as to improve energy efficiency measures and reduce the City's own carbon footprint and waste generation.

The City Council also directed the City Manager to schedule a meeting to discuss and confirm the work plan for this new position. This work plan discussion is anticipated to come before the City Council at the March 2, 2021 meeting.

CITY COUNCIL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ROLE & OPERATING PROCEDURES

The City Council Rules of Procedures Section 9, states that City Council committees:

- Operate as policy review and discussion arms of the City Council.
- Enable City staff to obtain early feedback from representative members of the City Council on issues affecting public policy prior to their presentation to the full City Council.
- Are expected to anticipate the full range of considerations and concerns related to various policy questions.
- Do not replace the City Council as final decision makers on behalf of the full City Council.
- Do not give staff direction on administrative matters, specific assignments, or work tasks.

The following is a description of the City Council Sustainability Committee's suggested role:

- Providing recommendations on the Sustainability Work Plan with final approval by the full City Council.
- Reviewing King County – Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C) Outreach activities and that of similar groups and deciding collectively the political advocacy (if any) that should be considered by the full City Council.
- Reviewing and making recommendations regarding the signing of support letters that are circulated for signature by mayors of K4C member cities, or by mayors of SCA member cities, involving issues or positions that are consistent with K4C's Updated Joint Climate Commitments that Mercer Island signed in 2019 ([available here](#)).
- Staying informed of pending legislation that might be of particular interest to Mercer Island and providing reports to the full City Council so it can determine in a timely manner whether it wants to take a particular position relative to certain legislation.

NEXT STEPS

If the City Council Sustainability Committee is reinstated, the City Council will need to confirm the Committee's policy role, operating procedures, and membership. This may be done at the February 2, 2021 meeting or a future meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

Reinstate the City Council Sustainability Committee and discuss its role and operating procedures.