



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

**AB 6386  
January 2, 2024  
Special Business**

**AGENDA BILL INFORMATION**

<b>TITLE:</b>	AB 6386: Councilmember Oath of Office and Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elections	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution
<b>RECOMMENDED ACTION:</b>	Administer the oath of office to re-elected Councilmembers and elect a Mayor and a Deputy Mayor for 2024-2025.	

<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	City Council
<b>STAFF:</b>	Ali Spietz, Chief of Administration Andrea Larson, City Clerk
<b>COUNCIL LIAISON:</b>	n/a
<b>EXHIBITS:</b>	1. City Council Rules of Procedure, Section 2
<b>CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:</b>	n/a

<b>AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE</b>	\$ n/a
<b>AMOUNT BUDGETED</b>	\$ n/a
<b>APPROPRIATION REQUIRED</b>	\$ n/a

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Pursuant to Chapter 35A.13 RCW (which governs optional municipal code cities under the Council-Manager plan of government), the Mercer Island City Code, and the City Council Rules of Procedure, newly elected and/or re-elected Councilmembers are sworn into office at the first Council meeting of the year. Additionally, the elections of Mayor and Deputy Mayor are conducted.

**ISSUE/DISCUSSION**

At Tuesday’s Council Meeting, the City Clerk will officially call the Meeting to order and chair the Meeting until a Mayor is elected. The City Clerk will administer the oaths of office to newly elected and re-elected Councilmembers, followed by the election for Mayor. The Mayor will then conduct the election for Deputy Mayor and chair the rest of the Meeting.

**OATHS OF OFFICE**

In November 2023, David Rosenbaum (Position No. 1), Wendy Weiker (Position No. 3), Craig Reynolds (Position No. 5), and Jake Jacobson (Position No. 7) were elected by the voters of Mercer Island to serve on the City Council. General Election results were certified on November 28, 2023. The elected Councilmembers will serve a four-year term until December 31, 2027.

The swearing-in ceremony will be conducted by the City Clerk who will administer the oaths of office. Each Councilmember will be asked to repeat the following:

*I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States of America, the laws of the State of Washington, and all local ordinances, and that I will faithfully and impartially perform and discharge the duties of the office of City of Mercer Island, Council Position No. \_\_\_ according to the law and to the best of my ability.*

Each Councilmember is required to sign the oath of office and will receive their Certificates of Election as provided by King County Elections.

## **ELECTIONS**

In the Council-Manager form of government, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected from among the Councilmembers for two-year terms. The Mayor presides at all Council meetings, votes as a Councilmember, and does not have any veto power. In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor will act in that capacity.

At the Council meeting, the City Clerk will entertain a motion for "nominations" for a Councilmember to serve as Mayor. As described in Section 2.2 of the City Council Rules of Procedure (Exhibit 1), if only one nomination is made, it is appropriate to make a motion and obtain a second to instruct the City Clerk to cast a unanimous ballot for that nomination.

If more than one nomination is made, an open election is conducted by roll call vote to decide among those nominated who shall be elected. The roll call vote will be conducted as follows:

1. The City Clerk shall call each Councilmember by name.
2. Each Councilmember will reply with aye, nay, or abstain if they do not wish to vote.
3. The City Clerk will tally the votes. If a nominee receives a majority vote of the City Council the City Clerk shall declare the nominee receiving the majority vote as the new Mayor.

Elections will continue until a Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by a majority vote of the City Council. Upon the election of the Mayor, the City Clerk shall administer the oath of office to the Mayor, who shall thereupon assume the role of Chair for the meeting. The Mayor will then proceed in the same fashion with the election of Deputy Mayor.

## **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Nominate Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as Mayor.

Nominate Councilmember \_\_\_\_\_ to serve as Deputy Mayor.