



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 5831
March 16, 2021
Consent Calendar

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

TITLE:	AB 5831: Suspend Council Rules of Procedure 8.13B Regarding Filling Board and Commission Vacancies	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only
RECOMMENDED ACTION:	Suspend Council Rules of Procedure 8.13B and authorize staff to fill board and commission vacancies concurrent with the 2021 Annual Recruitment Process.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution

DEPARTMENT:	City Council
STAFF:	Jessi Bon, City Manager Deb Estrada, City Clerk
COUNCIL LIAISON:	n/a
EXHIBITS:	n/a
CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY:	n/a

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

SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to review current board and commission vacancies on the Arts Council (2 positions) and Planning Commission (1 position) and seek authorization to fill both vacancies and expired terms as part of the annual board and commission recruitment process.

BACKGROUND

At the conclusion of the 2020 Board and Commission Annual Recruitment Process, one vacancy remained on the Arts Council. Staff immediately embarked on a second recruitment process; however, no applications were submitted to fill the remaining Arts Council position. A second vacancy was created in 2020 when Arts Councilmember Damian Schwiethale resigned in October. Recruiting to fill the Arts Council vacancies was difficult in 2020 given that meetings were temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic and did not resume until October 14, 2020.

In January 2021, a vacancy was created on the Planning Commission when Lucia Pirzio-Biroli resigned. The [City Council Rules of Procedures](#), Section 8.13B Vacancies, states, *"In the event a vacancy occurs mid-term, the City Council shall appoint a person to fill the unexpired term within 60 days."* The City Council Rules of Procedures were amended in February 2020 to include this timeline for filling vacant positions but did not contemplate vacancies that occur close to the annual recruitment process or factor in staff workload and the practicality of recruiting on such a short timeline.

In February 2021, the City Manager consulted with the City Council Leadership Team (Mayor Wong, Deputy Mayor Weiker, and Councilmember Nice) and recommended including the vacant Arts Council and Planning Commission positions as part of the annual board and commission recruitment process. The City Council Leadership concurred with the recommendation; however, suspending the City Council Rules of Procedure resides with the full Council.

RECOMMENDATION

To comply with the Rules of Procedure, staff requests that the City Council suspend its rules pursuant to Section 10.1 *“Any provision of these rules not governed by state law or ordinance, may be temporarily suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the City Council”* and authorize staff to fill the Arts Council and Planning Commission vacancies concurrent with the 2021 Annual Board and Commission Recruitment Process.

If the City Council does not approve the suspension of the rules, the staff will move forward with a standalone recruitment process for the vacant Arts Council and Planning Commission positions and endeavor to fill the positions as soon as possible.

NEXT STEPS

Staff recommend the City Council revisit the timeline prescribed in the City Council Rules of Procedure for filling board and commission vacancies that occur mid-term. The 60-day requirement is not practical when a vacancy occurs close to the annual recruitment process. The timeline may not be practical for other reasons as well, including staff workload.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Suspend City Council Rules of Procedure 8.13B, pursuant to Section 10.1.
2. Authorize staff to fill the Arts Council and Planning Commission vacancies concurrent with the 2021 Annual Board and Commission Recruitment Process.