

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA TOPIC

Ordinance amending the hearing examiner code in chapter 3.68 of the Bellevue City Code to authorize the hearing examiner to conduct any required public hearing for real property disposition and to make improvements to clarity and implementation; providing for severability; and setting an effective date.

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City Clerk's Office

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**ACTION**

This ordinance amends the hearing examiner code in chapter 3.68 of the Bellevue City Code (BCC) to authorize the hearing examiner to hold any required public hearing for real property disposition and to make improvements to clarity and implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6924

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The office of hearing examiner is established in chapter 3.68 BCC. This chapter allows the hearing examiner to conduct administrative hearings and other proceedings with appropriate authorization via city code or ordinance.

The city regularly disposes of personal or real property. Under state law and city code, certain property dispositions, such as that of surplus utilities real property, require a public hearing so the council may receive and consider public comments prior to taking action to dispose of the property. Currently, the council conducts these required public hearings.

Staff have identified, and recommend, a process improvement related to the required public hearing for the purpose of disposing of property. This improvement opportunity is through a code amendment (Attachment A) to authorize the hearing examiner to hold the public hearing and provide a written summary of public comments for review by the council. The hearing examiner already has the expertise for conducting hearings. Having the hearing examiner perform this function related to property disposition leverages this expertise and increases efficiency, both at the council and staff levels.

In addition, as part of reviewing the hearing examiner code in developing the above code amendment, staff have found several provisions that can benefit from updates. Many parts of the code are original to the code's adoption in 1986, with only some sections updated in 2009. Thus, as part of this ordinance, staff recommend several minor amendments to make improvements to clarity and implementation of the code.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

The recommended amendments will result in a more streamlined process for any required public hearing for property disposition and make improvements to clarity and implementation of the city's hearing examiner code.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with implementing these changes. While not having a direct fiscal impact, the recommended changes, if adopted, will provide operational efficiencies, streamline the process, and reduce the amount of council and staff time spent for required public hearings for property dispositions. The indirect savings will be spread across the organization.

OPTIONS

1. Move to adopt the Ordinance amending the hearing examiner code in chapter 3.68 of the Bellevue City Code to authorize the hearing examiner to conduct any required public hearing for real property disposition and to make improvements to clarity and implementation; providing for severability; and setting an effective date.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Chapter 3.68 BCC Redlined Strike-Draft
Proposed Ordinance No. 6924

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N/A