CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON

ORDINANCE NO. 6516

AN ORDINANCE amending Sections 3.55.030.E, 3.56.030.E, 3.61.030.E, 3.62.030.E, 3.63.030.E, and 3.64.030.E of the Bellevue City Code to allow all members of commissions and boards to remotely attend meetings and to attend remotely more than four times per year.

WHEREAS, the Bellevue City Code currently prohibits members of the Environmental Services Commission, Arts Commission, Human Services Commission, Parks and Community Services Board, Transportation Commission, and Planning Commission from participating remotely in board or commission meetings more than four times a year and prohibits more than two members from participating remotely during any one meeting; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws of these boards and commissions also contain these restrictions on remote participation; and

WHEREAS, due to the worldwide outbreak of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), on February 29, 2020, Governor Jay Inslee signed a Proclamation declaring a State of Emergency exists in all counties in the State of Washington; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2020, pursuant to his emergency powers, Governor Inslee imposed a Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order throughout Washington State, which, as amended, continues to be in effect in King County; and

WHEREAS, the King County Local Health Officer has also issued health orders and directives in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, these circumstances highlight the importance of providing flexibility in allowing remote participation by board and commission members; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the restrictions on remote participation in the code would allow the above-referenced boards and commissions to temporarily suspend their bylaws to allow remote participation; now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLEVUE, WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 3.55.030.E of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The commission shall meet at least once a month, with the exception that, critical or time-sensitive work permitting, the commission may recess for either the month of August or December.

B. All meetings shall be open to the public; provided, the commission may hold executive sessions as permitted by law. Commission business shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements, as applicable, of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, and the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended.

C. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by a majority of the members present when a quorum exists.

D. Affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

Section 2. Section 3.56.030.E of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The commission shall meet at least once a month, with the exception that, critical or time-sensitive work permitting, the commission may recess for either the month of August or December.

B. All meetings shall be open to the public; provided, the commission may hold executive sessions as permitted by law. Commission business shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements, as applicable, of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, and the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended.

C. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by a majority of the members present when a quorum exists.

D. Affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

Section 3. Section 3.61.030.E of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The commission shall meet at least once a month, with the exception that, critical or time-sensitive work permitting, the commission may recess for either the month of August or December.

B. All meetings shall be open to the public; provided, the commission may hold executive sessions as permitted by law. Commission business shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements, as applicable, of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, and the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended.

C. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by a majority of the members present when a quorum exists.

D. Affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

Section 4. Section 3.62.030.E of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The commission shall meet at least once a month, with the exception that, critical or time-sensitive work permitting, the commission may recess for either the month of August or December.

B. All meetings shall be open to the public; provided, the commission may hold executive sessions as permitted by law. Commission business shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements, as applicable, of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, and the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended.

C. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by a majority of the members present when a quorum exists.

D. Affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

Section 5. Section 3.63.030.E of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The commission shall meet at least once a month, with the exception that, critical or time-sensitive work permitting, the commission may recess for either the month of August or December.

B. All meetings shall be open to the public; provided, the commission may hold executive sessions as permitted by law. Commission business shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements, as applicable, of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, and the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended.

C. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by a majority of the members present when a quorum exists.

D. Affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

Section 6. Section 3.64.030.E of the Bellevue City Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The commission shall meet at least once a month, with the exception that, critical or time-sensitive work permitting, the commission may recess for either the month of August or December.

B. All meetings shall be open to the public; provided, the commission may hold executive sessions as permitted by law. Commission business shall be conducted in compliance with the requirements, as applicable, of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW, and the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW, as they exist now or may be hereafter amended.

C. A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum. Action may be taken by a majority of the members present when a quorum exists.

D. Affirmative votes from a majority of members present and voting shall be necessary to carry any proposition. A member who fails to vote without a valid disqualification is declared to have voted in the affirmative.

Section 7. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force five (5) days after its passage and legal publication.

Passed by the City Council this _____ day of _____, 2020 and signed in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2020.

(SEAL)

_____
Lynn Robinson, Mayor

Approved as to form:

_____
Kathryn L. Gerla, City Attorney

Attest:

_____
Charmaine Arredondo, City Clerk

Published _____