

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

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.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bellevue City Code 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. It also prohibits more than two members of these boards and commissions from participating remotely in any one meeting. This code amendment would allow the boards and commissions to temporarily suspend their bylaws to allow all of the board and commission members to participate remotely at any one meeting, and to allow remote participation for more than four meetings per year.

RECOMMENDATION

Move to adopt Ordinance No. 6516

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS

The City Council has appointed boards and commissions to provide policy recommendations to the Council on matters of City business. In order to conduct their business, the boards and commissions need to convene on a schedule that allows sufficient time to receive and consider information, hold public meetings or public hearings, and meet any required state and local deadlines.

The Bellevue City Code currently prevents more than two members of the above-referenced boards and commissions from participating remotely in any one meeting, and limits remote participation to no more than four meetings per year. The bylaws of these boards and commissions also contain these restrictions. Given the ongoing public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Governor's Stay Home – Stay Healthy Order as well as orders and directives from the King County Local Health Officer, boards and commissions need to hold meetings where all members may participate remotely. It is also possible that the affected board and commission members will need to participate remotely more than four times in a year.

This Ordinance would amend the City Code to eliminate the restrictions on how many board or commission members may participate remotely and would eliminate the restriction on each member participating remotely no more than four times per year. This code amendment would provide flexibility to the affected board and commissions to temporarily suspend these same restrictions that exist in their bylaws, to allow board and commission members to attend meetings remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic. These meetings would continue to be subject to Open Public Meetings Act requirements.

POLICY & FISCAL IMPACTS

Policy Impact

Each affected board or commission is mandated to provide policy recommendations to the Council. This code amendment will permit policy work to continue when remote participation by all members is necessary.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this proposed code amendment.

OPTIONS

1. Adopt the 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.
2. Do not adopt the Ordinance and provide alternative direction to staff.

ATTACHMENTS & AVAILABLE DOCUMENTS

A. Ordinance - redlined
Proposed Ordinance No. 6516

AVAILABLE IN COUNCIL LIBRARY

N/A