

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-049

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COCOA, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING A BOARD APPOINTMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR THE CITY COUNCIL TO UTILIZE WHEN MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF PRIOR INCONSISTENT RESOLUTIONS, SEVERABILITY, AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 2-58 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Cocoa provides uniform procedures and requirements for establishing and/or abolishing boards and committees, appointing and removing members thereof, and conducting board and committee business; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Cocoa has established multiple boards and committees pursuant to the authority granted to the Council in Section 2-58 which serve to assist the City Council with tasks critical to efficient administration of City government and to provide members of the public with an opportunity to serve their community; and

WHEREAS, Section 2-58(e) of the Code of Ordinances provides that “all persons shall be appointed to, and removed from city boards and committees by majority vote of the city council,” and shall “serve at the pleasure of the city council;” and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires, via this Resolution, to create a uniform procedure which the City Council shall follow when appointing members to serve on City boards and/or committees; and

WHEREAS, providing a standardized board appointment process will serve to enhance the public’s confidence in the municipal services delegated to, and performed by, City boards and committees and to ensure that decisions of boards and committees are in the best interests of the City; and

WHEREAS, nothing in this Resolution is intended to supersede or conflict with Section 2-58 of the City Code and is merely intended to supplement the uniform procedures codified in such section; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution shall not apply to nor govern the process for filling vacancies on the City Council, which is addressed in Article III, Section 10 of the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Cocoa, Florida, hereby finds this Resolution to be in the best interests of the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the City of Cocoa; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COCOA, BREVARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. **Recitals.** The foregoing recitals are hereby fully incorporated herein by this reference as legislative findings of the City Council of the City of Cocoa.

Section 2. **Establishment of Board and Committee Appointment Process.**

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT PROCESS

1. Board and Committee Member End-of-Term and Vacancy Procedures; Reappointment.

- a. The City Clerk shall notify the City Manager of the impending expiration of an appointment term for a currently serving board or committee member at least ninety (90) days prior to such expiration of their term or upon receiving a written resignation notice from a currently serving board or committee member.
- b. The vacancy or potential vacancy shall be advertised to the public by posting a notification of such vacancy on the City’s website, social media, and newsletter, and by such other means directed by the City Manager. Such advertisement shall invite the public to apply for membership on the Board or Committee. Alternate members of the Board or Committee shall also be extended an invitation to apply for the vacancy.
- c. If a Board or Committee Member’s term is expiring, they will be invited to apply for reappointment. Board and Committee members shall be informed that the Code of Ordinances, Section 2-58(f), provides that no board or committee member shall serve more than three (3) consecutive full terms on the same board or committee. However, the City Council has reserved the right to waive the term limitation set forth in Section 2-58(f) when the Council determines that the applicant pool of eligible persons desiring to serve on a board or committee is insufficient for any reason to appoint a different person to replace the board or committee member being termed out. Board or committee members applying for reappointment shall be considered for reappointment in accordance with Section 3 below and amongst other candidates that have applied for the seat, if any.
- d. Persons wishing to be considered for appointment to a City board or committee must submit an online application for appointment to the City Clerk’s Office no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the vacancy or potential vacancy is advertised. Vacancy advertisements may be extended at the discretion of the City Manager. Application assistance is available through the City Clerk’s Office by phone (321) 433-8480 or email cityclerk@cocoafl.gov.
- e. The City Clerk’s Office shall review the applications, assess applicants’ qualifications for the position to which they have applied in accordance with Section 2-58 of the Code of Ordinances, and conduct background checks of each applicant upon receipt.

- f. The City Council shall consider applicants for the seat at its next regularly scheduled meeting following the closing of the period for acceptance of applications and the completion of the investigation into the qualifications of the applicants and shall vote to appoint or reappoint a member either (1) immediately for a currently vacant seat; or (2) effective upon the expiration of the term of the currently serving member for an upcoming vacancy on the board or committee. The City Clerk shall attempt to schedule consideration of the appointment no later than the first City Council meeting of the month prior to the term expiration to ensure seats will be filled.
- g. Appointees approved by the City Council will assume their Board Member or Committee Member positions and responsibilities immediately upon the expiration of the incumbent Member's term, or immediately for the remainder of the term if the seat has an unexpired term and is vacant.
- h. Reappointments may be made in accordance with Section 3 below.

2. Qualification of Board and Committee Members and Factors to be Considered during Appointment

- a. All board and committee members must meet the requirements of Section 2-58(c) of the City of Cocoa Code of Ordinances, as may be amended from time to time. Any person nominated, elected, or appointed to serve on a board or committee of the City shall satisfy the following requirements, except as otherwise provided by state or federal law:
 - i. Applicants must complete an application as prescribed by the City Council;
 - ii. Applicants must consent to a standard criminal background check;
 - iii. Applicants must be a resident or owner of real property, and a registered voter as defined in Section 2-58 of the City Code unless the City Council by unanimous vote waives this requirement upon a determination that a vacancy on a board or committee must be filled by a person with specialized skills and training and a resident or owner of real property and who is a registered voter with such skills and training cannot be reasonably found to fill the vacancy. If said requirement is waived, the vacancy shall only be filled by a person who is a resident or an owner of real property within the city; and
 - iv. Applicants must never have been convicted or found guilty, regardless of adjudication, of a felony in any jurisdiction, any plea of nolo contendere shall be considered a conviction for purposes of this paragraph, unless civil rights have been restored.
 - v. Any other requirements imposed by state law applicable to a board or committee.
- b. All applicants shall abide by and be subject to the provisions of Chapter 112, Florida Statutes, Part III, pertaining to the Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, and shall meet any requirements set forth therein.
- c. City employees shall not be permitted to apply to Boards or Committees unless otherwise approved by the City Manager.

- d. The City Council shall take into consideration general qualifications in analyzing an applicants' fitness for a particular board or committee appointment. General qualifications for the City Council to consider when reviewing applicants shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - i. Whether applicant has relevant expertise related to the purpose and function of the board or committee.
 - ii. Whether the applicant is interested in serving their community.
 - iii. The applicant's professional business experience, including but not limited to their degree of involvement in managing a business or other corporate entity.
 - iv. Applicant's willingness to perform all board or committee member responsibilities and duties.
 - v. Applicant's ability to commit the time necessary to fulfill such duties and responsibilities required of board or committee members, including attending scheduled meetings.
 - vi. Applicant's knowledge of the respective roles of the City Council and board or committee members, and knowledge of the general operation of the City.
 - vii. The applicant's personal integrity, character, intelligence, and ability to work well with others.
 - viii. Geographic diversity of the Board with respect to residency in each of the single member voting districts.
 - ix. Whether the Applicant already serves on another Board or Committee. In some cases, such as where the Boards or Committees possess final decisionmaking authority, appointment on two Board or Committees will be prohibited.

3. Reappointment Process for Board and Committee Members

- a. All Board Members shall serve terms as outlined in the Code of Ordinances, Section 2-58. Members who have not exceeded their maximum allowable number of terms may be reappointed by the City Council and will be considered along with any new applicants who have applied for the position. Factors to be considered in the reappointment include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. The member's satisfaction of the general qualifications under Section 2.
 - ii. The demonstrated ability of the member to work collaboratively with the City Staff and the City Council to further the goals and tasks of the City of Cocoa.
 - iii. The overall performance and level of commitment by the member to the board or committee on which they serve.

4. Voting on Appointments by Ballot

- a. In circumstances where there are more applicants for membership on a board or committee than there are vacancies for that board or committee, the City Council

shall vote by ballot to choose the next member or members of said board or committee.

- b. Process for Voting by Ballot:
 - i. The City Clerk shall create ballots, one for each City Councilmember, which contain the names of all board/committee applicants and a space for Councilmembers to rank said applicants.
 - ii. At the public meeting at which the Council will appoint board or committee members, during the section of the agenda where appointment is to take place, the Clerk shall provide the Councilmembers with the ballots.
 - iii. Councilmembers shall, on their ballots, write their name and indicate the order in which they prefer all applicants, placing the numeral 1 beside their first preference, the numeral 2 beside their second preference, and so on for every possible choice.
 - iv. Once all Councilmembers have completed their ballots, the Clerk shall collect all ballots and tally the votes for each applicant. The City Clerk shall announce the applicant with the lowest number of points, who shall be appointed to the seat. If there are multiple seats open, the applicant with the second lowest number of points shall be appointed as well, and so on. If multiple seats are open with different term lengths, the applicant with the lowest number of points shall be appointed to the seat with the longest term, the applicant with the second lowest number of points shall be appointed to the seat with the second longest term, and so on.
 - v. The applicants selected in accordance with the ballot voting procedure shall be appointed to the vacant board or committee seat by motion of the City Council.
- c. The process of voting by ballot herein adopted supersedes the procedure for appointments of boards and committees established in Resolution 2013-99 of the City Council Rules of Procedure, Article XII, Section A.

Section 3. **Repeal of Prior Inconsistent Resolutions.** All resolutions or parts of resolution in conflict herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

Section 4. **Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, word, or portion of this Resolution is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be deemed a separate, distinct, and independent provision and such holding shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion hereto.

Section 5. **Effective Date.** This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption by the City Council of the City of Cocoa, Florida.

ADOPTED in a Regular Meeting of the City Council of the City of Cocoa, Florida, this 4th day of June, 2024.

Michael C. Blake, Mayor

ATTEST:

Monica Arsenault, CMC, City Clerk