



Staff Report

File #: 20-375

Version: 1

Date: 10/12/2020

Item #: 5.a.

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilor Brad Nanke, Ward 3

SUBJECT:

Motion from Councilor Brad Nanke to waive Council Rule 21(a) to allow a councilor-nominee or councilor-elect to serve as a guest councilor at regular and special council meeting multiple times through December 31, 2020.

Ward(s): All Wards

Councilor(s): All Councilors

Neighborhood(s): All Neighborhoods

MOTION:

I move that City Council waive Council Rule 21(a) to permit a councilor-nominee or councilor-elect to serve as a guest councilor at regular and special council meetings multiple times through December 31, 2020 and that staff bring back a recommendation to permanently modify the rule to incorporate these changes.

DISCUSSION:

There are times when it would be advantageous for an incoming councilor to attend more than one meeting per year, particularly when Council is discussing policy issues that will have an effect over the course of the incoming councilor's term. In addition, guest councilors are limited to "regular" council meetings, not special meetings like work sessions. The current process to allow this would require council to waive the rule at the beginning of a meeting where the guest councilor would serve more than once, creating a delay at the beginning of the meeting to deal with the procedural item. This motion would allow a guest councilor, who is a councilor-nominee or councilor-elect, to participate without the procedural step.

Council Rule 21 allows a member of council to designate a person as "Guest Councilor" to fill the seat of the councilor at a regular meeting in the event of his or her absence. A person designated as guest councilor must be an elector and a resident of the ward of the councilor whose seat is being filled. An individual can only serve as guest councilor once per year.

Guest councilors may not make or second any motion nor vote on any matter coming before council, nor may a guest councilor attend executive sessions.

Council Rule 24 allows council rules to be suspended upon a two-thirds majority vote of councilors present. This motion proposes to temporarily suspend or waive portions Rule 24 through the end of December.

Council Rule 24(b) provides that amendments to Council Rules requires a two-thirds majority vote of council and must first be introduced at council meeting at least ten days prior to council voting on the amendment. The motion proposes a temporary suspension of council rules and not an amendment, and therefore Rule 24(b) is not applicable.

Attached is a draft amendment to Rule 21 prepared by the City Attorney in response to this motion. If this motion is adopted by Council, this draft will be presented at a future council meeting for council's consideration.

Attachments:

1. Draft amendment to Rule 21 prepared by the City Attorney