ORDINANCE NO. 572

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, REDUCING THE PLANNING COMMISSIONER MEMBERSHIP TO SEVEN TO BE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL; AND AMENDING SHORELINE MUNICIPAL CODE 2.20.020

WHEREAS, most cities in our region have seven or five member Planning Commissions and the trend region-wide has been to reduce nine-member Commissions to seven member Commissions; and

WHEREAS, most cities have made this change to improve the ability of their planning commissions to function as effective and efficient deliberative bodies; and

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to change the structure now with approximately half of the Commissions scheduled for appointment in 2010; now therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SHORELINE, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Amendment. Section 2.20.020 of the Shoreline Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

2.20.020 Membership.
A. Qualifications. Members of the planning commission shall be selected from individuals who have an interest in environmental affairs, planning, land use, and residential and commercial development as evidenced by training, experience or actions. An intent of the selection process shall be to evenly represent the areas of interest as stated herein. Membership in the planning commission shall be limited to residents or owners of property within the city. No member shall serve longer than two consecutive terms.
B. Number of Members – Terms. The planning commission shall consist of nine members, each of whom shall be appointed for a term of four years. To allow the staggering of terms for the initial planning commission and appointment or reappointment as appropriate, the initial terms shall be as follows: four members for terms of two and one-half years; five members for terms of four and one-half years. Subsequent terms shall be for four years. Terms shall expire March 31st in even numbered years with of each year three members appointed in 2010 and four members appointed in 2012.
C. Appointment. Members of the planning commission shall be appointed by majority vote of the planning and community development committee city council subject to an open recruitment process approved by the city council. Members shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the city council. Commissioners shall be selected without respect to political affiliations and shall serve without compensation.
D. Removal. Members of the commission may be removed by the city manager, with the concurrence of the city council, for neglect of duty, conflict of interest,
malfeasance in office, or other just cause, or for unexcused absence from more than three consecutive regular meetings. Failure to either reside or own property in the city shall constitute a forfeiture of office. The decision of the city council regarding membership on the planning commission shall be final and there shall be no appeal therefrom. Members finding themselves unable to attend regular meetings are expected to tender their resignation.

E. Vacancies. Vacancies occurring other than through the expiration of terms shall be filled for the unexpired terms in the same manner as for appointments as provided in this chapter.

F. Conflicts of Interests. Members of the planning commission shall fully comply with Chapter 42.23, RCW, Code of ethics for municipal officers, Chapter 42.36 RCW, Appearance of fairness, and such other rules and regulations as may be adopted from time to time by the city council regulating the conduct of any person holding appointive office within the city.

Section 2. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after passage and publication of a summary consisting of its title.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON FEBRUARY 8, 2010.

Mayor Keith McGlashan

ATTEST:

Scott Passey
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Ian Sievers
City Attorney

Date of Publication: February 11, 2010
Effective Date: February 16, 2010