

Amendment 1
to
RES 31954 - One-year budget proposal
Sponsor: CM Mosqueda

Amend the title of RES 31954 as follows:

A RESOLUTION relating to the City's annual budget process; ~~repealing Resolution 28885; and~~ stating intent that the City will consider a one-year budget proposal for 2021 only; and superseding Resolution 28885 to the extent inconsistent.

Amend the third recital, and remove the seventh recital, to RES 31954 as follows:

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WHEREAS, appropriations have always been adopted on an annual basis under chapter 35.32A RCW, ~~and the City has never done a true two-year appropriated budget under chapter 35.34 RCW;~~ and

* * *

WHEREAS, given the circumstances present in 2020, the biennial aspects of the City's budget process observed for the last 25 years will hinder City progress and goals for 2021; ~~and~~

~~WHEREAS, Resolution 28885 also contains several out of date terms and procedures, meaning it is appropriate to repeal Resolution 28885, with the possibility of contemplating new biennial procedures in the future, instead of suspending its operation;~~ NOW,

THEREFORE

Amend Sections 2, 3 and 4 to RES 31954 as follows:

Section 2. ~~Resolution 28885, adopted in 1994, is repealed.~~

~~Section 3.~~The Mayor and City Council intend to create, consider, and adopt a budget for 2021 in the fall of 2020 without endorsing a budget for 2022. To the extent Resolution 28885 is inconsistent with this resolution, Resolution 28885 is superseded.

Section 3. In consideration of the City Council and the Mayor adapting its traditional biennial budgeting practice per Resolution 28885, the Council requests that the City Budget Office (CBO) and the Department of Finance and Administration Services (FAS), in consultation with Council Central Staff, evaluate and report on both the near- and long-term solutions that allow for sufficient and transparent budget planning, including:

- A. By October 1, 2020 and every year thereafter, CBO providing to Council Central Staff a six-year financial forecast, including disclosure of all embedded assumptions;
- B. By February 1, 2021, CBO in consultation with Council Central Staff will provide a report that outlines a non-modified biennial budget process that is consistent with RCW 35.32A; and

C. By April 31, 2021, FAS and CBO, in consultation with Council Central Staff, submitting a report outlining a plan that includes timelines and costs to implement a comprehensive budget/fiscal data sharing system that will allow the public and the Legislative Branch to access said data.

~~The Mayor and City Council intend to consider in early 2021 whether legislation creating a biennial budget process is appropriate at that time.~~

Renumber the following sections of the bill, as appropriate.

Effect: The resolution would remove the requirement that the City considers a biennial budget in even-calendar years, allow for the writing of a one-year budget, and signals the City's intent to determine if future legislation is needed to consider a biennial budget in future years. (The traditional practice has been to provide a biennial budget in even-calendar year in which the first year's budget is adopted and the second year's budget is endorsed.) This amendment would allow the Mayor to propose a one-year budget to Council for 2021 only.

The proposed amendment also reflects Council's assumption that full fiscal transparency is necessary, especially during economic downturns. Consequently, this amendment outlines a number of actions to achieve this goal to increase transparency by requesting better data sharing and coordination between the Executive and Legislative branches:

1. Submittal of a six-year financial plan, including any and all embedded assumptions beginning on October 1, 2020, and every year thereafter;
2. By February 1, 2021 a report from CBO in consultation with Council Central Staff, outlining a plan for a non-modified, true biennial budget process in which the City can adopt budgets in both years. Currently, the City operates within a modified biennial budget process in even calendar years and adopts only the first year's budget (and endorses the second year); and
3. A report by April 31, 2021 from CBO and FAS, in consultation with Council Central Staff, outlining a plan for upgrading the City's data sharing platforms to minimize dependency for obtaining said data by the Legislative Branch and the public.