

1 Sponsored by: Councilmembers Marty Campbell, Amy Cruver, Robyn Denson,
2 Ryan Mello, and Dave Morell
3 Requested by: County Executive/Planning and Public Works Dept.
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6 **ORDINANCE NO. 2023-11s**
7
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9 **An Ordinance of the Pierce County Council Eliminating the Sunset Date for**
10 **the Agriculture Advisory Committee; Repealing Resolution**
11 **No. R2017-106 as Amended; and Adopting a New Chapter**
12 **2.62 of the Pierce County Code, "Pierce County Agriculture**
13 **Advisory Commission."**
14

15 **Whereas**, agriculture is an important segment of Pierce County's economy,
16 community, and heritage, which helps feed our community and provide much needed
17 jobs and income to families and individuals; and
18

19 **Whereas**, the Pierce County Council (Council) established the Pierce County
20 Agriculture Advisory Committee (Committee) as a limited duration advisory body to the
21 Council, pursuant to Resolution No. R2017-106, in order to help ensure that the Council
22 is well informed on issues of significance to the agricultural community and to provide
23 recommendations on issues that impact agriculture in Pierce County; and
24

25 **Whereas**, twice, the Council reaffirmed the important and valuable work of the
26 Committee and extended the sunset date by approving Resolution No. R2020-47 and
27 Resolution No. R2021-194; and
28

29 **Whereas**, the administrative operations of the Committee are currently housed
30 and accounted for under the Office of the Pierce County Council; and
31

32 **Whereas**, the Committee is comprised of 13 members representing a wide range
33 of agricultural interests and perspectives, including members from the King-Pierce Farm
34 Bureau, livestock production sector, tree and orchard production sector, nursery
35 production sector, and other sectors; and
36

37 **Whereas**, the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer (Assessor-Treasurer) is
38 required under Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington to consult a five-
39 member committee representing active farming before considering methodologies for
40 calculating the current use value on properties classified as farms and agricultural
41 lands. On June 16, 2022, at the request of the Assessor-Treasurer, the Council
42 approved Resolution No. R2022-88 which tasked five representatives from the
43 Committee to serve in this capacity; and
44

45 **Whereas**, the Committee has been very active since its establishment, holding
46 monthly meetings and forming several sub-committees to work on specific agricultural
47 challenges, such as drainage and marking; and
48

1 **Whereas, the Council** has found the expert advice and input of the Committee
2 on agricultural interests to be timely, valuable, and in the best interest of the health,
3 safety, and welfare of the citizens and residents of Pierce County; and

4
5 **Whereas, the Council** deems it appropriate and in the best interest of the
6 residents of Pierce County to transition the Committee from a limited duration advisory
7 body to the Council to a permanent advisory commission to provide expertise on
8 agricultural issues to all of Pierce County government; **Now Therefore,**

9
10 **BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of Pierce County:**

11
12 Section 1. A new Chapter 2.62 of the Pierce County Code, "Pierce County
13 Agriculture Advisory Commission," is hereby adopted as shown in Exhibit A, which is
14 attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

15
16 Section 1. Resolution No. R2017-106, as amended by Resolution No. R2020-47
17 and Resolution No. R2021-194, shall be repealed effective upon the confirmation of a
18 quorum of voting members of the Pierce County Agriculture Advisory Commission
19 created pursuant to Section 1.

20
21
22 **PASSED this** 2nd day of May, 2023.

23
24
25 **ATTEST:**

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29 Denise D. Johnson
30 **Denise D. Johnson**
31 Clerk to the Council

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33
34
35 **PIERCE COUNTY COUNCIL**
Pierce County, Washington

36
37
38 Ryan N. Mello
39 **Ryan N. Mello**
Council Chair

40
41 Bruce F. Dammeier
42 **Bruce F. Dammeier**
Pierce County Executive
43 Approved Vetoed _____, this
44 9th day of May,
2023.

41 Date of Publication of
42 Notice of Public Hearing: April 12, 2023

43
44 Effective Date of Ordinance: May 19, 2023



"NEW CHAPTER"

Note: The Chapter number and title shall also be inserted chronologically into the Table of Contents for Title 2.

Chapter 2.62

PIERCE COUNTY AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sections:

- 2.62.010 Created.
- 2.62.020 Purpose.
- 2.62.030 Composition.
- 2.62.040 Term of Office.
- 2.62.050 Vacancies – Removal from Office.
- 2.62.060 Officers – Quorum – Voting Privileges.
- 2.62.070 Meetings – Rules and Records.
- 2.62.080 Remote/Virtual Participation.
- 2.62.090 Duties.
- 2.62.100 Farms and Agricultural Lands Advisory Committee.
- 2.62.110 Staff Support.

2.62.010 Created.

The Pierce County Agriculture Advisory Commission (Commission) is hereby created and shall hereafter be referred to as the "Commission." The members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Pierce County Executive (Executive) and confirmed by a majority of the Pierce County Council (Council), pursuant to Section 3.30 of the Pierce County Charter.

2.62.020 Purpose.

In order to ensure Pierce County government is well informed, the Commission shall advise and make policy recommendations to the Executive and Council on issues of significance to or that impact the agricultural community, and will provide a forum to enhance and promote the long-term success of commercial agriculture in Pierce County.

2.62.030 Composition.

The Commission shall be comprised of 16 members total; 11 voting members and 5 non-voting members.

To ensure a diverse representation of various aspects of the farming and agriculture industry when appointing the 11 voting members, consideration and preference should be given to the following:

- A. Geographic countywide distribution, using the four Agricultural Production Areas as a guide;
- B. Experience in crops, timber or orchards, flowers and bulbs, poultry, fish, shellfish, or livestock;
- C. Experience in nursery, green house, agritourism, or smaller niche operations;



- 1 D. Experience in organic farming;
- 2 E. Experience in farming arable and non-arable soils; and
- 3 F. Experience in agricultural equipment, fertilizer, chemicals, or materials sales.

4 The five non-voting members shall be comprised of the following:

- 5 A. One recommended from a local 4-H organization;
- 6 B. One recommended from a local Future Farmers of America (FFA) organization;
- 7 C. One recommended from the King-Pierce Farm Bureau;
- 8 D. One recommended from the Pierce Conservation District; and
- 9 E. One recommended from the Washington State University Cooperative Extension.

10 All commission voting members shall be residents of Pierce County or be active commercial
11 agricultural producers or supporting industries operating in Pierce County.

12
13 **2.62.040 Term of Office.**

14 Members of the Commission shall be appointed by the Executive and confirmed by a
15 majority of the Council by resolution. The Commission shall consist of 11 voting members.

16 Effective January 1, 2024, the first terms of the Commission's voting members shall be
17 staggered as follows:

- 18 A. Five shall be appointed for two years, to expire January 1, 2026; and
- 19 B. Six shall be appointed for four years, to expire January 1, 2028.

20 Thereafter, the successors to the first appointment shall be appointed for 4-year terms. No
21 member of the Commission shall be eligible to serve more than two full terms consecutively.

22
23 **2.62.050 Vacancies – Removal from Office.**

24 Vacancies occurring for any reason shall be filled by appointment for the remainder of an
25 unexpired term. The Executive may remove any member of the Commission for inefficiency,
26 neglect of duty, malfeasance, or three unexcused absences in one year, subject to confirmation
27 by a majority of the Council.

28
29 **2.62.060 Officers – Quorum – Voting Privileges.**

30 The Commission shall annually elect a Chair and Vice Chair from among its voting
31 members. A quorum of the Commission for the purposes of transacting business shall be a
32 majority of voting members currently appointed, to be no less than five. Each voting member of
33 the Commission shall be entitled to one vote on any matter duly before the body. Members shall
34 abstain from voting on matters that create a conflict of interest with their professional role or
35 with the organization they represent. Each voting member may designate a proxy as needed.

36
37 **2.62.070 Meetings – Rules and Records.**

38 The Commission shall meet once a month, a minimum of ten times annually. All meetings
39 shall be open to the public and adhere to Chapter 42.30 RCW, Open Public Meetings Act,
40 Chapter 42.56 RCW, Public Records Act, and other applicable state laws and county codes. If no
41 matters pertaining to the Commission are pending on its calendar or lack a quorum, the meeting
42 shall be cancelled. The Commission shall adopt Rules before it transacts business after
43 consultation with the Planning and Public Works Department. Such Rules shall be adopted by a
44 majority of voting members at a public meeting. Any amendments to the Rules shall be made
45 after a majority vote. A current copy of the Rules shall be provided to the Executive and the
46 Clerk to the Pierce County Council. The Commission shall keep written minutes of its meetings
47 and make those minutes available to all members of the Commission and to the public.



1 **2.62.080 Remote/Virtual Participation.**

2 When practicable, meetings are to be held in a hybrid format allowing for remote attendance
3 for commission members and the public in addition to in-person attendance. Hybrid meetings
4 shall provide in-person opportunities for public comment and may also allow virtual public
5 comment. Procedures, links, meeting identifications, and passwords for remote access should be
6 included on the meeting agenda.

7
8 **2.62.090 Duties.**

9 The duties of the Commission are as follows:

- 10 A. Hold a public meeting and make recommendations to the Pierce County Planning
11 Agency as defined in Chapter 2.76 PCC on rural and resource components of the Pierce
12 County Comprehensive Plan and policies within that affect agriculture or rural land
13 uses;
- 14 B. Hold a public meeting and make recommendations to the Pierce County Planning
15 Agency on development regulations which affect agricultural operations or production;
- 16 C. May make recommendations to the Executive and Council on proposed legislation at the
17 state level which affects agriculture in Pierce County;
- 18 D. Make recommendations to the Executive and Council on the development and execution
19 of the food policy for Pierce County; and
- 20 E. May assist the Planning and Public Works Department (Department) on other matters of
21 agricultural policy which from time to time may be referred by the Executive or Council
22 or as may be raised by the Commission.

23
24 **2.62.100 Farms and Agricultural Lands Advisory Committee.**

25 At a minimum of one additional meeting per year, five voting members of the Commission
26 shall also serve as the Farms and Agricultural Lands Advisory Committee, which is responsible
27 for advising the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer on methodologies for calculating current use
28 values for farms and agricultural lands, consistent with RCW 84.34.145. The five voting
29 members and department representative shall be:

- 30 A. The Chair of the Commission;
- 31 B. The Vice Chair of the Commission;
- 32 C. Three volunteer voting members, selected by the Commission; and
- 33 D. One representative from the Pierce County Assessor-Treasurer's to serve as a non-voting
34 member.

35
36 **2.62.110 Staff Support.**

37 The Department shall administer and provide staff support for the Commission. The
38 Department is authorized, if funding is available, to hire a consultant to provide staff support and
39 administer the work of the Commission.

40
41 **2.62.120 Dissolution.**

42 The Commission shall be deemed dissolved by ordinance of the Council. When fewer than
43 the minimum quorum of five voting members are appointed to serve current terms for more than
44 180 consecutive days, the Department shall prepare and submit to the Council an ordinance for
45 dissolution.

