

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:00pm in the City Council Chambers.

The meeting was recorded by ECTV and can be viewed on the City of Everett website.

Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors Alfred Lattanzi, Darren Costa and John Hanlon, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Smith who was unable to attend due to a family commitment.

The Committee considered a Petition offered by Councilor John Hanlon, as President: A free petition, in accordance with Section 8-1 of the Everett City Charter, requesting a five year moratorium on new housing developments in the City of Everett greater than 3 families and strict enforcement of current city ordinances regarding building and conversion of 1,2 and 3 family properties.

Attorney Jonathan Silverstein and Director of Planning Matt Lattanzi were also present.

Councilor Lattanzi excused himself from discussion to avoid the appearance of a conflict whereas he has a proposed development before the City's Zoning Boards.

Councilor Costa stated that his major concern right now is with the Ward 3 zoning being outdated in referencing a multi-unit development being proposed on Elm Street where a single family home has existed for years. He remarked that it was difficult to lump all of Everett into a moratorium when it was known that some high taxpayers in the lower Broadway area would be dropping off the tax rolls in the future and as such he said he wouldn't want to stop development already in motion in South Everett with interest rates increasing that could potentially stymie development. He suggested that the main focus of a moratorium or rezoning be done on the residential side of Everett especially in Business Overlay districts in an attempt to preserve the neighborhoods. Chairman Marchese agreed that he did not want to impact the lower Broadway or Revere Beach Parkway areas of the City from development but wanted to stop single family homes being converted into multi-unit developments in Everett Proper. Councilor Costa announced that he would like to see additional information per ward on development and variances granted noting that Elm Street is not like Broadway. Councilor Hanlon suggested that the Committee request a zoning map of the City. Councilor Costa referenced the recent outcry from the public on development within the City and remarked that something needs to happen but acknowledged that a moratorium across the board was not financially healthy for city. He inquired to how the City Council could move forward with a planning initiative and if City Council members could participate in planning meetings. He mentioned how the City of Somerville formed strategic planning teams. Attorney Silverstein informed the Committee that City Council could go through the zoning maps which would make it relatively easy to identify zoning areas that could be converted into multi-unit developments. He stated that it wouldn't take a huge planning initiative since the City Council could request certain areas to be rezoned, however he noted that property owners can protect themselves from rezoning. Attorney Silverstein explained that the City Council can propose a rezone, however a moratorium would require a planning objective. Councilor Costa requested that this be done collaboratively with the Administration rather than Councilors doing it themselves piecemeal. He referenced that in the City of Somerville the Administration works with the City Council on these issues

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proactively. Attorney Silverstein indicated that it could be done but noted it would be a big undertaking. Mr. Lattanzi informed the Committee that he could take a look at the business districts and break down where single family homes and other residential units are located within the business district. Chairman Marchese asked if the Planning Department could provide a zoning map to the City Council and Mr. Lattanzi agreed to do. Chairman Marchese announced that he would appoint Councilor Costa to review and collect the appropriate data related to this matter with Attorney Silverstein and Mr. Lattanzi and report back to the City Council at a later date with his findings and recommendations. Chairman Marchese also announced that he was appointing Councilor Smith as an alternate to assist Councilor Costa in his findings.

The Committee voted, to grant further time and reconvene when Councilor Costa has completed his findings and recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers.

The meeting was recorded by ECTV and can be viewed on the City of Everett website.

Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors Alfred Lattanzi, Darren Costa and John Hanlon, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Smith who was unable to attend due to a family commitment.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael Marchese: That the Administration considers equally distributing the city's local newspaper advertising among all three of Everett's weekly newspapers.

Councilor Lattanzi provided a reference to the City Charter from City Solicitor Colleen Mejia related to Interference with Administration which read "No city council or any member of the City Council shall give orders or directions to an officer or employee of the city appointed by the mayor, either publicly or privately". Councilor Lattanzi expressed his concern based on this document that the City Council had no jurisdiction on this matter that it was an Executive matter not a Legislative one. Chairman Marchese responded that it was the taxpayers money being spent and that he as a Councilor was not sure what was being spent and shared with the various newspapers. He requested that Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas be asked to provide this information and that Mr. Demas ask what each newspaper charges per square inch with the City agreeing to go with the lowest price per square inch for all newspapers. Chairman Marchese noted that the Wellness Center was going out to bid so he couldn't understand why there would be a problem going out to bid for a cost per square inch from all newspapers. Councilor Costa agreed that it was good financial hygiene in getting quotes, but wanted the bid process to include an online version of the paper noting that one no longer does it. Councilor Hanlon stated that he agrees in obtaining the cost information but was not in favor of going against the Charter section provided by the City Solicitor. Councilor Costa requested that the number of publications per paper be provided as well.

The Committee voted, to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to CFO Eric Demas to provide the amount of money spent on each local newspaper, the number of publications per paper, and that the City go out to bid with each local newspaper inquiring to the cost per square inch and that the CFO report back his findings at the next regular City Council meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees