

#1-C0506-22

Legislative Affairs & Election Committee
February 13, 2023

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, February 13, 2023 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 John Hanlon, Darren Costa and Stephanie Smith.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilors Michael Marchese and Darren Costa: A Resolution requesting written responses to the attached list of questions associated with any investigations made into and/or lawsuits filed against the City, its employees or elected officials.

City Solicitor Colleen Mejia was also present.

City Solicitor Colleen Mejia reviewed the documentations she provided to the Committee. Councilor Smith inquired to the many areas that were blackened out on the documents and Solicitor Mejia explained that it was information that was exempt from public disclosure. Solicitor Mejia explained the various codes that would help in determining what was open or closed as well as what was paid and what was estimated. She noted that the School Department refused to provide any information related to lawsuits. Solicitor Mejia also discussed the insurance premiums the City has paid during the past five years and remarked that the overall premium has remained consistent unless adjusted if more equipment was added. Councilors Costa and Smith inquired to lawyers invoices related to the US Attorney's investigation and Solicitor Mejia agreed to provide updated invoices. Upon questioning from Councilor Hanlon, Solicitor Mejia informed the Committee that the Attorneys are paid up to \$790 per hour of service. Councilor Costa asked if the retracted information could be discussed in an Executive Session and Solicitor Mejia indicated that she would have to confer with the respective Attorneys. The Committee continued to review the various line items and recommended that the documents be placed on File.

The Committee voted, to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to place on File.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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EVERETT, WA

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Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors John Hanlon, Darren Costa and Stephanie Smith.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Darren Costa: That the City Council hereby requests that the Mayor establish an AD HOC Committee for updating the City of Everett's zoning ordinances with the intent of modernizing district maps and ordinances and that the Mayor appropriate the sufficient funds for the purposes of a hiring a professional planning consultant to assist the AD HOC Committee in this process.

Councilor Costa referenced his involvement in the zoning process going back to this past November when he was appointed by the Committee as the lead person to conduct research with the various city planning entities on the subject matter. He explained his reasoning behind his proposal with numerous City Council zoning proposals being submitted for discussion and action. Councilor Costa referenced reason changes he has proposed to the TDM Ordinance since he feels it must fit the zoning in place and mentioned some Planning Board approvals that just don't fit especially in dwelling districts. Councilor Costa mentioned that it was important that residents of each ward in addition to appointed of some members of the City Council to this AD HOC Committee along with the hiring of a professional planning consultant. Councilor Hanlon stated that he would the City Council to receive monthly reports once the AD HOC Committee is up and running. Councilor Costa stated that he would like to see a process of what should be reported out and would like to see simple table for each zoning district. Councilor Smith agreed that there was a lot going on with the numerous submittal of proposals for zoning changes and noted that she had talks with the Planning department and they were open and agreeable to an AD HOC Committee. She stated that the constant submittal of zoning proposals was getting confusing and requested that the President inform the members of the City Council not to submit any more since the AD HOC Committee would be addressing and covering all zoning related issues. Councilor Costa recommended that Councilor Smith be added as a Sponsor.

The Committee voted, to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the Mayor and Planning Department with a response within a month and a further recommendation to add Councilor Smith as a Sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors John Hanlon, Darren Costa and Stephanie Smith.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Darren Costa: That the Mayor's office consider requiring a Community Action Board and Community Benefits Agreement as part of the revised or new Host Agreement with Wynn Casinos and any other large scale developments in our modern zoning districts.

Chief Financial Office Eric Demas was also present.

Councilor Costa stated that he wants to utilize these two parts to get updates on expanded sources of revenue. He remarked that it was great to have Wynn develop an old industrial section of the City but stated that the City hasn't got everything on original agreement. He indicated that the Casino itself was not something that benefited the residents and felt it important to establish these Community Actions. He mentioned that it was important to include residents and student representatives and would like to see frequent updates on the progress of any new or amended agreements that would hopefully include outdoor amenities and workforce housing and wanted to see the City become proactive in this approach. Councilor Smith stated that she would like to see the Casino provide quarterly updates to the City Council. Councilor Hanlon requested a copy of the current Host Agreement. Councilor Smith asked Mr. Demas if he could provide a breakdown of the various tax revenues provided by the casino to the City and Mr. Demas explained that the State doesn't breakdown the revenue sources. Councilor Costa asked Mr. Demas if he could provide an update on the Host Agreement and Mr. Demas responded that talks were ongoing but he had no update. Mr. Demas informed the Committee that the Mayor wants to maximize every available resource.

The Committee voted, to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the Mayor with a request for a response at the March 13th regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees