

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, February 27, 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 Councilor Michael Marchese: That the City Council discuss in this committee the pros and cons of changing the City's Residential Parking program to seven days a week.

Sgt. Joe Gaff and Chad Luongo were invited but were not present. Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney sent an email minutes before the start of the meeting with some dates during the month of March that would work but most were of non-meeting nights or conflicted with other meetings and events.

Chairman Marchese remarked that the City needed to address the issue to get cars off the street. He explained that his intent was not to impact business areas but noted that there were way too many cars on Everett streets especially on weekends. Councilor Costa stated that a comprehensive plan was needed that also included enforcement. Councilor Hanlon mentioned the problems he had with parking in his neighborhood of Main Street. Councilor Smith referenced some work Councilor Martins had previously done on subject matter and requested that further time be granted.

Councilor Marchese requested that invites be sent to Traffic Commission Chairman Sgt. Joe Gaff and Parking Officer Chad Luongo to a meeting night date.

The Committee voted, to grant further time on a date to be determined.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees

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The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: Amending Section B 1 of the Zoning Ordinances: Inclusionary Zoning.

Councilor Stephanie Martins, the Sponsor was also present.

Councilor Martins explained that she was looking to amend the existing Ordinance from ten or more dwelling units to six or more dwelling units in the hope that this slight tweak would be a huge impact on providing additional affordable housing. Councilor Smith remarked that she felt that this was a band aid approach especially with all the work the Committee has been doing on establishing an overall review and research of all zoning related matters within the City. She noted that this can't be done overnight and would take a lot more analysis with the Planning Department on board in doing a revamp. Councilor Martins assured the Committee that she had talked to the Planning Department about starting with six and stated that if it was delayed the City would be missing out on providing the additional affordable housing. Councilor Costa asked the Sponsor why six units and Councilor Martins explained that she had observed the conversion and market trends within the City. Councilor Martins asked how many current developers would be impacted and Councilor Martins noted that it would only take effect upon passage. Councilor Costa acknowledged that the Committee was working on the bigger problem of overall zoning in the City that needs solving and expressed concern that this could hurt proposed smaller developments and questioned the TDM point system. Councilor Costa remarked that he doesn't believe the change creates a significant solution to the affordable housing problem. Councilor Smith referenced what other communities were using for numbers and was not sure if the number six was the right number for the City of Everett. Councilor Costa stated that he had no faith in the 10 units and believed 6 units but was concerned on the timeframe in which the overall zoning review and revamp could be completed. Chairman Marchese recommended further time and requested that the Planning Department and Planning Board be invited to the next meeting on the subject matter and that they be provided a copy of Councilor Martins proposal.

The Committee voted, to grant further time on a date to be determined and requested that the Planning Department and Planning Board be invited to the next meeting on the subject matter and that they be provided a copy of Councilor Martins proposal.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilor Vivian Nguyen: An Ordinance regulating animal breeding within the City of Everett

Councilor Vivian Nguyen, the Sponsor was also present.

Councilor Nguyen provided an overview of her proposal that was developed with the assistance of animal activist and was consistent with the current kennel requirements. Councilor Costa concurred that he also heard from some people on the importance of this proposal. Councilor Hanlon if a resident would be in violation of this Ordinance if they had a dog who had several puppies and wanted to sell or give away the puppies. Councilor Nguyen explained that the Ordinance was for those intentionally involved in breeding. Councilor Hanlon expressed concern on how the City would be able to identify the difference and Councilor Nguyen responded that it would be at the direction of the Animal Control Officer. Councilor Smith stated that she agrees with merit but is concerned on who enforces, inspects and wanted assurances that a residents dog having puppies wouldn't be in violation. Councilor Smith also requested that a fine be determined. Councilor Hanlon noted that the license should be issued by the City Clerk and not the Animal Control Officer. Councilor Hanlon asked if she was aware of any breeders and Councilor Nguyen responded no. The Committee recommended that the matter be granted further time to allow the Sponsor to fine tune the proposal.

The Committee voted, to grant further time on a date to be determined and requested that the Sponsor be invited to the next meeting on the subject matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees