

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Thursday, March 2, 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 Darren Costa: That representatives from the Mayor's office and the Transportation Department appear at this meeting to discuss the City's Traffic Management Association and any other public/private consortiums.

Director of Transportation Jay Monty as well as Andrea Leary and Allison Simmons, Consultants for Northease Consulting were also present.

Ms. Simmons and Ms. Leary informed the Committee that they were TDM professionals that managed several TMA's of the 15 TMA's throughout the Commonwealth. They noted that the Lower Mystic TMA was formed in 2019 and is the newest TMA that consists of the communities of Charlestown, Chelsea, Everett, Medford and Malden. They provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation on what a TMA is, TMA Formation, TMA Benefits, TMA Objectives, TMA Vision and the Waytogo Commuter Benefit Platform App. Councilor Costa thanked them for the presentation and remarked that it was very helpful since it can be very confusing as well. He inquired into Sweester Circle improvements and Ms. Simmons responded that they were focused on alternative transportation modes not vehicles. Councilor Costa acknowledged the importance of rail systems, Wynn shuttle network and water shuttles to the Community. Mr. Monty explained that Developers for projects in the City were paying Northease Consulting to explore these transportation modes mentioned by Councilor Costa.

The Committee voted, to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to place on file with a further request that the Legislative Aide obtain a copy of the PowerPoint presentation from Mr. Monty and provide it to all City Council members.

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 Councilors Darren Costa and Stephanie Smith: 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.

Director of Transportation Jay Monty, Director of Planning Matt Lattanzi and Planning Board Member Leo Pizzano were also present.

The Committee noted that it was awaiting a decision from the Mayor on whether he planned to establish a Ad Hoc committee on zoning or not. Mr. Lattanzi responded that he was not sure but stated his office was committed to doing a recodification of the zoning ordinances and anticipated that an RFP would be issued shortly in which a firm would be hired in this process. He explained that there would be public hearings in which the city council and public could participate and anticipated that there would be many voices in the room when proposed zoning changes were being made. The Committee reiterated its position that some members of the City Council should be included in these recodification meetings.

The Committee voted, to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the Mayor on whether he plans to establish an Ad Hoc Committee on zoning and that he report back his decision to the City Council at its regular meeting April 10th.

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 an Ordinance offered by Councilor Darren Costa: An Ordinance to amend the Transportation Demand Management Zoning Ordinance to only be applicable to developments that fall within the TDM District overlay.

Director of Transportation Jay Monty, Director of Planning Matt Lattanzi and Planning Board Member Leo Pizzano were also present.

Councilor Costa explained his position on having the TDM only be applicable to developments that fall within the District overlay. He noted that the City needs a modern view of zoning along with a parking enforcement strategy since he see no change in reduction of vehicles within the City with most new developments still showing one spot for one unit. Mr. Monty assured him that the TDM is still a big first step in helping to get those vehicle numbers down. Mr. Monty indicated that they were looking to tweak the TDM for more green space, retail, MBTA passes and shared parking. Councilor Smith mentioned that the point system needed to be tweaked as well since she felt certain areas within City should be treated differently, but acknowledged that the overall zoning in City needed to be changed so that the TDM would work. Mr. Pizzano explained that he was not a big fan of TDM when it was proposed but stated that Mr. Monty had done a good job with it. Mr. Pizzano expressed his desire for the City to get more out of the developers and not give up everything and that the City hire more parking enforcement officers by having the developers pay for it. He stated that the TDM also gives the Planning Board some jurisdiction in getting more affordable housing. Mr. Lattanzi concurred that there were various boxes the developers needed to meet as part of the TDM that also included affordable housing. Councilor Costa mentioned how the communities of Cambridge and Somerville were addressing parking enforcement. Mr. Pizzano informed the Committee that he was also a member of the Traffic Commission in Everett and that parking is a major concern but assured the Committee that Traffic Commission Chairman Police Sgt. Joe Gaff was working on the enforcement issue and would be presenting something in the near future. Mr. Lattanzi discussed the different zoning districts in the City in relation to the proposed amendment and explained that zoning is the issue not the TDM. Councilor Costa referenced the Elm street project as a reason for his proposal. Councilor Smith discussed her proposed amendment to delete TDM from dwelling districts. Mr. Monty remarked that if the City was left without TDM as a tool it would do more harm to take out any areas of City. Chairman Marchese felt the City was being oversaturated with too much development.

The Committee voted, to report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees