

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 6pm in City Council Chambers.

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

Members present were Councilor Richard Dell Isola, presiding and Councilors Vivian Nguyen, and Stephanie Martins. Member absent was Councilor Irene Cardillo.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That the City Engineer and/or Water Department appear before the Council to discuss the current draining system and potential improvements on Garland Street where the basements have historically flooded.

City Engineer Erik Swanson was also present.

Councilor Martins asked Mr. Swanson if Garland Street had any draining system and if not what was the City doing to address the flooding issue in homes on this street. Mr. Swanson explained that there are portions of Garland Street that do and don't have drainage systems. He stated that this has been a decades long issue due to the location of basements in conjunction with ground water levels. He noted that a solution would be pump out the water but questioned where does the water go to avoid impacting other residences. He informed the Committee that the City was looking to expand drainage in the area and suggested that any residents on Garland Street impacted by flooding contact the Engineering Department so they could work with the residents to assist in installing pumps. Chairman Dell Isola inquired to how many houses on Garland Street were impacted and Mr. Swanson responded that no survey was done to determine the number of houses. Chairman Dell Isola recommended that the Water Department visit the area to check which homes are having the problem.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the City Engineer with a request that he report back his findings to the City Council at the second regular meeting in November.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That an update be provided on the status of the Alpine Park renovation project and timeline for the repaving of Hamilton and Hoyt Streets, and Silver Road.

City Engineer Erik Swanson was also present.

Councilor Martins inquired as to why these projects were delayed. Mr. Swanson responded that the Shapiro Playground was designed and advertised four years ago and then the City made changes to the project and design which stretched out the timeline. He noted that COVID created further delays that also pushed out shipping timelines for the play structures. Mr. Swanson informed the Committee that those play structures were now in place and that the project was nearly complete with finishing touches currently being made. He mentioned that the Streets in question were having new water mains installed with different contractors doing water and paving. He informed the Committee that he expected the repaving to commence again next week with the final binder paving for these streets to be completed in the Spring. Councilor Martins requested that cones be placed where obstructions may exist until the project is completed.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the City Engineer with a request that he report back his findings to the City Council at the second regular meeting in November.

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Members present were Councilor Richard Dell Isola, presiding and Councilors Vivian Nguyen, and Stephanie Martins. Member absent was Councilor Irene Cardillo.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That the City Engineer provide information on current plans to replace the lead pipes.

City Engineer Erik Swanson was also present.

Councilor Martins referenced the allocation in the budget to replace lead pipes in the City and inquired on where the City was with this project and what was the Homeowners responsibility when this work was to be performed on their homes. Mr. Swanson explained that the lead pipe replacement project was a ten year project which had already commenced by the Water Department with approximately 375 locations already replaced with a plan to replace 100 more under the current contract. Mr. Swanson stated that there were 600-700 locations that were known to have lead pipes and that the City was investigating 1500 more locations to determine whether they were lead or not. He explained that the Homeowner would be responsible for the lead pipe replacement from the curb stop while the City would be responsible from curb stop to the main water line. He noted that the City was keeping records of where lead and copper pipes are located and mentioned that the City would provide Homeowners with a list on contractors to replace the lead pipe from the curb stop.

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