

#1 - C0006-24

Ways and Means Committee
February 22, 2024

The Committee on Ways and Means met on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Smith, presiding; Councilors Guerline Alcy Jabouin, Holly Garcia and Robert Van Campen, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Anthony DiPierro.

Communication received from Councilor DiPierro that he would be unable to attend due to a work obligation.

The Committee met on a Resolution offered by Councilor Guerline Alcy Jabouin: A resolution to determine and analyze the ongoing project for Senior ARPA programs to determine that our budgeted funds are being spent appropriately and effectively.

Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas was also present.

Councilor Jabouin noted that she had more questions from the previous meeting and wanted to know if records were being kept on the expenditure of ARPA funds from the various categories. Mr. Demas responded that he doesn't keep the records but was agreeable in requesting them from the various individuals overseeing the programs to provide to the committee. Councilor Jabouin inquired on how the \$807,850 was spent for Job Assistance Training and Mr. Demas agreed to check with the appropriate individual overseeing this program. Councilor Jabouin also asked how the money was spend for Remote Meeting access and Public meetings and Mr. Demas explained that there were purchase orders for those expenditures. Councilor Jabouin requested a copy of the feasibility study report that was performed on Pope John high school and Mr. Demas agreed to provide. Councilors Garcia and Van Campen requested additional information from Mr. Demas and he explained that all ARPA funding is shown on the ARPA dashboard on the City website with the City of Everett receiving \$45 million with approximately \$20 million remaining in funds. Councilor Van Campen asked where would someone in the Arts community go if they were interested in seeking ARPA funds and Mr. Demas noted that information would be going out to the public next week explaining how to do so. Councilor Jabouin requested that the matter remain in Committee so she could obtain the information requested.

The Committee voted: to grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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Communication received from Councilor DiPierro that he would be unable to attend due to a work obligation.

The Committee met on an Order offered by Councilor Robert Van Campen, as President: An Order requesting the approval to appropriate \$115,000 from Budgetary Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the following accounts: Fire Department Equipment Maintenance \$50,000 & BLS-1 Operating Funds \$65,000.

Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas and Acting Fire Chief Joseph Hickey were also present.

Chief Hickey explained that the fire department had an aging fleet of vehicles and that their mechanic recommended that there was some outstanding work that needed be done resulting in the need for the additional \$50,000 appropriation. Councilor Van Campen inquired to why there was a need for an appropriation of \$65,000 for the Basic Life Support Ambulance service the City was now providing if it generated revenue. Chief Hickey noted that the ambulance came into service in September 2023 and Mr. Demas explained that it has generated \$52,000 in revenue but there were still charges from Cataldo Ambulance Service for providing Advance life support to the City and since the ambulance service provided by the City was new it would take some time for the City to catch up with revenues eventually exceeding chargebacks. Councilor Van Campen asked if an Enterprise Fund had been setup for the ambulance service and Mr. Demas informed him no that instead the City Council had established a special revenue fund with a maximum amount of \$250,000 a year, but expected that an Order would be introduced in FY25 to increase the \$250,000 amount. Mr. Demas also acknowledged the possibility that an Enterprise Fund could be established down the road. Chairwoman Smith asked if funds were already provided for the Basic Life Support Ambulance and Mr. Demas stated yes it was in the Fire Department operating budget. Chairwoman Smith asked if there was an specific equipment the additional appropriation for maintenance was for and Chief Hickey responded all of them. Councilor Van Campen asked how the billing process worked and Chief Hickey provided a brief overview of process mentioned that the rate of \$1300 for the BLS ambulance service was set before he took over as acting Chief. Councilor Jabouin expressed concern the City was still paying Cataldo Ambulance service now that the City was operating an ambulance service. Chief Hickey explained that there were certain things Cataldo could do that the City couldn't do. Councilor Jabouin suggested that the City pay to train the Firefighters so that they didn't need to use Cataldo. Chief Hickey explained that it was a lot more money to train to become an Advance Life Support ambulance service paramedic. Councilor Garcia inquired if equipment was the same on an ALS and BLS ambulance and Chief Hickey agreed to provide the information on the various equipment on both ambulances.

The Committee voted: to report back to the City Council with a recommendation of Favorable action.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

#3 - C0085-24

Ways and Means Committee
February 22, 2024

The Committee on Ways and Means met on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

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Members present were Councilor Stephanie Smith, presiding; Councilors Guerline Alcy Jabouin, Holly Garcia and Robert Van Campen, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Anthony DiPierro.

Communication received from Councilor DiPierro that he would be unable to attend due to a work obligation.

The Committee met on an Order offered by Councilor Robert Van Campen, as President: An Order requesting the approval to appropriate by borrowing \$11,400,000 for improvements at the Old Everett High School located at 548 Broadway.

Mayor Carlo DeMaria and Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas were also present.

Councilor Van Campen noted that the cost to have repairs performed on the old high school had a broad impact on the community and felt that this was a discussion that should be held with the entire City Council at a special meeting so that all members could participate in this dialogue.

The Committee voted: to report back to the City Council with a recommendation that the subject matter be referred to a Special City Council meeting on Monday March 4th.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

The Committee on Ways and Means met on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Smith, presiding; Councilors Guerline Alcy Jabouin, Holly Garcia and Robert Van Campen, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Anthony DiPierro.

Communication received from Councilor DiPierro that he would be unable to attend due to a work obligation.

The Committee met on a Resolution offered by Councilor Guerline Alcy Jabouin: A resolution asking the administration to submit all costs associated with the old Everett high school (utilities, maintenance, heat, insurance, etc.) and all funds allocated to maintain it.

Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas and Director of Facilities Angelo Febbo were also present.

Mr. Febbo provided the committee with a breakdown of the FY23 costs requested ; National Grid Electric - \$112,229.02; National Grid Gas - \$30,342.69; Direct Energy Electric - \$103,984.62; NRG Gas - \$33,294.13; Industrial Boiler Rental - \$122,000; Insurance Policy - \$250,000. Mr. Febbo also noted that they had a transfer credit from National Grid Electric in the amount of \$154,569.96 which would reduce the overall costs to approximately \$497,000. Councilor Jabouin asked if the City was receiving any monies for electricity from the Wellness Center. Mr. Febbo explained that he only handles the maintenance costs for the building and has nothing to do with the Wellness Center contract. Mr. Demas informed the Committee that all revenues generated by the Wellness Center can only be spent on recreation. Councilor Jabouin expressed concern about spending money on a building that should be demolished and wanted to know what the ultimate plan was for the old high school. Chairman Smith suggested that the matter be referred to the Special City Council meeting on the Old high school so that the appropriate individuals could answer the question on what the plans were for the building.

The Committee voted: to report back to the City Council with a recommendation that the subject matter be referred to a Special City Council meeting on Monday March 4th.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees