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Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service Committee  
May 9, 2024

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The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Thursday, May 9, 2024 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 Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Peter Pietrantonio and Holly Garcia. Members absent was Councilor Guerline Alcy Jabouin.

Communication received from Councilor Guerline Alcy Jabouin that she was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilors Stephanie Martins & the Entire City Council: That the Administration provide an update on the process to renegotiate the Encore host agreement, including adding a public safety component as a part of the renegotiation.

Mayors Chief of Staff Erin Deveney was also present.

The Committee was in receipt of a communication from Mayor Carlo DeMaria providing an update on the status of the ongoing negotiations with Wynn about the proposed expansion with their East of Broadway development. The Mayor noted he has had numerous discussions with representatives from Wynn and has shared the position of the City Council that any new development agreement must include the provisions for a new fire station. He noted that the City and Wynn have not reached an agreement on terms yet. Chairperson Martins stated that she appreciated the update but wanted to know what are we agreeing on since there were a host of issues that could be discussed. Councilors Pietrantonio and Garcia concurred and mentioned more is needed than public safety and referenced the Schools as an issue. Councilor Garcia stated that she would like to see more community outreach from Wynn like they did when they first proposed the casino for the City. Chairperson Martins indicated that she would like to know what the top priorities for the City are in these discussions. Ms. Deveney explained that the media was reporting issues between the City and Wynn and that the project has come to a stop, but she assured the Committee that the conversations have not stopped even though Wynn has slowed things down during the negotiations. She stated that the Mayor is looking for acceptable compensation and terms from Wynn for the community and focus on benefits for the residents as well as to insure the expansions will have no negative impact to city. Councilor Pietrantonio remarked that he felt Wynn was strong arming the City on the negotiations by stopping and slowing down the proposed development. Ms. Deveney reassured the Committee that this was not being perceived as a threat and that public safety was a very specific point of the negotiations while the Mayor continued to evaluating the best interests for the City. Ms. Deveney shared the projected construction plans for the East Broadway development while the Committee discussed concerns related to traffic and transportation. The Committee suggested inviting representatives from Wynn to a meeting of the City Council to discuss just the East of Broadway proposal and not the renegotiation of the host agreement.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to extend an invite to representatives of Wynn to appear at a City Council meeting to provide a presentation of their East of Broadway project.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees

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The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilor Katy Rogers: An Ordinance requiring all playing fields in Everett to use environmentally sustainable organic grass instead of artificial turf. .

Councilor Katy Rogers, the Sponsor was invited but was not present informing the Committee that she was unaware that her item was on tonight's agenda.

The Committee was informed by the Clerk that if the intent was to make this an Ordinance then the matter should be referred to the Legislative Affairs Committee. Councilor Pietrantonio mentioned this days working for the City in caring for the grass in the City's public facilities and noted that it was a lot of work to care and maintain the grass remarking that is was not a fun job. He felt that turf was a good thing and didn't think it would make sense to rip up existing turf areas to replace with natural grass. Councilor Garcia agreed and mentioned the upkeep required to care for grass fields and suggested looking at other alternatives that would be better for the environment and health. Chairperson Martins suggested postponing until Councilor Rogers had an opportunity to discuss her intentions, but Councilor Pietrantonio noted that he was in opposition to the proposal and requested that the matter be referred back to Sponsor.

The Committee voted 2 to 1 with Chairperson Martins opposed: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to Sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees