

The Committee on Ways and Means met on Monday, May 13, 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 Anthony DiPierro, Guerline Alcy Jabouin and Holly Garcia.

The Committee met on an Order from Councilor Robert J. Van Campen, as President: An Order requesting approval to appropriate \$150,000.00 from the General Fund Budgetary Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the Treasurer/Collector other expenses account. This appropriation is necessary to pay the credit card expenses for the remainder of the year.

Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas and Mayors Chief of Staff Erin Deveney were also present. Councilor DiPierro noted that this was a similar topic from last year and asked Mr. Demas what the City anticipated to pay in credit card fees this year? Mr. Demas estimated that it would be around \$410,000.00 this fiscal year compared to approximately \$260,000.00 last fiscal year. Councilor DiPierro remarked that he understood that the City picking up the credit card fee is a convenience to residents but expressed concern that the cost to City is becoming exorbitant. Councilor Jabouin inquired why the City doesn't charge the customers the fee and Mr. Demas explained that the Mayor did it as a convenience to residents but informed the Committee that this would be the last appropriation since the Mayor would be cutting it out of next fiscal years budget. Councilor Jabouin asked why is it a convenience on some credit card charges to the City and not some other city charges. Ms. Deveney explained that some smaller incidental charges were actually working against the best interest of the City, but she agreed that the Administration would explore expanding the credit card convenience to all charges.

The Committee voted 3 to 1 with Chairperson Smith recorded in opposition: to report back to the City Council with a recommendation for Favorable action.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS OFFICE
EVERETT, MA
2024 MAY 14 A 10:00