



MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024 6:00 PM

EVERETT CITY HALL, 484 BROADWAY, CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 3RD FLOOR
EVERETT, MA 02149

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ROLL CALL

Members Present

Guerline Alcy Jabouin, Anthony DiPierro, Holly Garcia, John Hanlon, Michael Marchese, Stephanie Martins, Wayne Matewsky, Katy Rogers, Peter Pietrantonio, Stephanie Smith

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **C0237-24** Order/s/ Councilor Robert J. Van Campen, as President

An order requesting approval to expend \$10,000,000 from ARPA funds for Improvements at the Old Everett High School including the replacement of the roof.

Mayor DeMaria provided a letter in support of utilizing \$10 million in ARPA funding to replace the roof of the old Everett High School in order to preserve the existing uses and expand educational space by creating a 7th-8th grade middle school in the building. A facility assessment and feasibility report was provided detailing the proposed renovations.

Superintendent Hart and architect Frank Tedesco presented the plan and answered questions from the council. Key points:

- Everett schools are severely overcrowded at all levels. The former high school could house 1100 7th-8th grade students, alleviating overcrowding across the district.
- Many important elective classes and student services are compromised due to lack of proper spaces.
- The plan would renovate the 2nd and 3rd floors into a middle school with science labs, a library, separate gym, etc. The pre-k program would remain.
- Some current uses may need to be relocated within the building.

- Construction would take 18-24 months. Work would be staged to avoid disrupting the pre-k program.
- Security between the public and student areas would be paramount in the design.
- Projected cost is \$72 million - far less than the \$145 million estimated in 2018 for a new school of this size.
- The city could seek historical grants to offset some costs.
- Mayor DeMaria committed to keeping the Elliot Family Resource Center and Broadway Boxing gym in the city, relocating them within the building if needed.
- Debt from this project could add \$264 to the average tax bill, unless new growth offsets it. Some existing school debt will be retired in coming years.

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| MOTION: | Favorable Action |
| MOVER: | Anthony DiPierro |
| SECONDER: | Stephanie Martins |
| RESULT: | Passed [9 TO 1] |
| AYES: | DiPierro, Garcia, Hanlon, Marchese, Martins, Matewsky, Rogers, Pietrantonio, Smith |
| NAYS: | Alcy Jabouin |
| AWAY: | |

2. C0262-24 Order/s/ Councilor Robert J. Van Campen, as President

An order requesting approval of an appropriation by borrowing in the amount of \$72,000,000 for building improvements, equipment, and furnishings at the Old Everett High School, located at 548 Broadway

Further council discussion centered on:

- Wanting assurance the Eliot center and boxing gym would remain in the city
- Possibility of moving some services to Pope John to free up more school space
- Process for disposing of Pope John school if this project moves forward
- Possibility of recouping costs through historic preservation grants
- Concern about the impact of construction on the neighborhood
- Requesting a firm commitment to a project labor agreement to keep costs controlled and maximize local benefit
- What happens to any leftover funds (they would not be borrowed)
- How the renovated building would be managed with multiple users
- Amount of parking that can be added

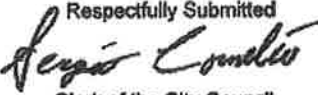
After the discussion, a motion was made to postpone the vote until the Sept. 9 meeting so all councilors could be present. The motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

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| MOTION: | Postpone |
| MOVER: | Stephanie Smith |

SECONDER: Anthony DiPierro
RESULT: Failed [0 TO 0]
AYES:
NAYS:
AWAY:

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Clerk of the City Council