

#1- C0137-24

Legislative Affairs & Election Committee
September 23, 2024

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers.

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

Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors Stephanie Smith, Katy Rogers and Robert Van Campen, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Stephanie Martins.

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

Councilor Rogers informed the Committee that she had worked with David Flood, Legislative Research Analyst to make some minor amendments that was discussed at the previous meeting. She mentioned that Mayor Carlo DeMaria had sent the City Council a communication noting the Administration commitment to maintaining organic grass on public lands where possible. Councilor Van Campen commended Councilor Rogers efforts on the subject matter and discussed the process of replacing the existing turf under Section 17-140. Councilor Rogers remarked that the Ordinance insures that there is a process. Councilor Smith commended Councilor Rogers for compromising on her proposal but announced that she could not support because she felt that this decision should be left to the Administration and not the City Council. Chairman Marchese asked if this would include the proposed soccer stadium and Councilor Rogers stated that there is room for exceptions.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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#2- C0259-24

Legislative Affairs & Election Committee
September 23, 2024

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, September 23, 2024 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers.

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Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors Stephanie Smith, Katy Rogers and Robert Van Campen, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Stephanie Martins.

The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilor Katy Rogers: An Ordinance pertaining to trees in the City of Everett.

Councilor Rogers informed the Committee that she had collaborated with the City's Arborist on the subject matter but still needed to meet with David Flood, Legislative Research Analyst, David Palumbo, Direction of Inspectional Services and David St. Louis, Arborist to finalize the proposal.

The Committee voted: To grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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Members present were Councilor Michael Marchese, presiding, Councilors Stephanie Smith, Katy Rogers and Robert Van Campen, as ex-officio. Member absent was Councilor Stephanie Martins.

The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilor Robert Van Campen, as President: An Ordinance proposing the addition of two new sections to Appendix A – Zoning of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Everett Section 36 – Master Planned Development and Section 37 – Everett Docklands Innovation District (“EDID”)

Director of Planning Matt Lattanzi and Attorney Jonathan Silverstein, Planning Consultant were also present.

The Committee voted to amend the agenda to reflect the correct sections 36 and 37. Councilor Smith inquired why the zoning ordinances were being amended now instead of waiting for the overall zoning recodification. Mr. Lattanzi explained that it was prompted by a potential proponent coming into the City. He noted that the masterplan was a city wide zoning initiative and Dockland was a zoning initiative strictly for the old Exxon Mobil site. Upon questioning from Councilor Smith Mr. Lattanzi explained that the Masterplan had been reduced from one acre to a half acre. He explained further that what is now before the Committee is what was recommended out by the Planning Board with many changes. Chairman Marchese requested that he review the proposed changes that were made and Mr. Lattanzi provided the Committee with an overview of each change made by the Planning Board. He noted that there were no formal development plans until the zoning proposals were finalized. He assured Councilor Smith that there would be a construction management plan. Councilor Rogers inquired about the naming of any new streets and Mr. Silverstein explained that it could be part of the submittal process in naming of streets. Councilor Rogers responded that she would like the City to have a say on street names and would like to see any new development in the Dockland area to include Police – Fire – EMT Facilities.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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The Committee considered an Order offered by Councilor Robert Van Campen, as President: An Order requesting the confirmation of the appointment of Mirlande Felissaint as Director of Elections/Registrar for a term ending January 5, 2026.

Mirlande Felissaint, appointee to Director of Elections; Erin Deveney, Mayor's Chief of Staff and Terri Ronco, Director of Human Resources were also present.

Councilor Rogers noted that she did not have any resume of the appointee before her and asked Ms. Felissaint if she had any election experience in which Ms. Felissaint responded no. Councilor Rogers asked Ms. Felissaint what her experience was in and Ms. Felissaint responded that she had management, political, criminal justice and leadership skills. Councilor Rogers asked Ms. Felissaint if she lived in Everett and if she votes in Everett. Ms. Felissaint responded that she did live in Everett but lives in the City of Chelsea now but has been active in the community and had worked for the Mayor. Councilor Van Campen remarked that he needed to understand the process for filling this role where the position was critical towards election integrity in the City. He noted that no applicant information was provided as was requested and mentioned that the position was filled in July with someone who has no experience in elections and wanted to know who was on the interview committee. Ms. Deveney acknowledged that appointments from the Mayor to the City Council was different in the past, with the City Council now wanting to review applicants before hiring. She informed the Committee that the City Solicitor had advised that other resumes are not a matter of public record if the applicants were not made aware their resumes would be made public. Ms. Ronco informed the Committee that the position was posted internally and externally and that four resumes were received for the position with 2 being internal and 1 internal with the Mayor being the hiring authority. Councilor Van Campen asked if any had election experience and Ms. Ronco responded yes. Councilor Van Campen requested to receive redacted versions of resumes noting that this is not a position for on the job training with elections being so critical. Ms. Ronco stated that she would defer to the City Solicitor on the redacted resume request. Councilor Smith noted that the Budget for the position was increased by \$16,000 as a means to attract better candidates with election experience and she remarked that she was concerned with the way this was conducted. Councilor Smith inquired if this was considered a Department Head position and should be included in the Administrative Code. Ms. Deveney agreed that this was a significant position but wasn't sure if it should be included as a Department Head due to concerns with the influence of authority, but concurred that the position with regards to reporting needed clarification.

The Committee voted: To grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees