

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Monday, October 7, 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, Guest Alcy Jabouin and Holly Garcia.

City Engineer Eric Swanson was also present.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Anthony DiPierro: Requesting that the Administration appear to discuss procedures for notifying residents of roadwork and concerns regarding lack of said communication.

Councilor DiPierro informed the Committee that he informed Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney and City Engineer Eric Swanson of two issues that occurred over the summer and the Administration has agreed to incorporate these examples for reference into ongoing projects so improvements can be made. Councilor DiPierro requested that the matter be referred back to Sponsor. Councilor Garcia expressed concern about the roadwork occurring in her area in which residents needed a better timeline and notification on what days and hours work was being performed. Mr. Swanson noted that the City only allowed work to be performed on Monday thru Fridays and wasn't familiar with any work being performed outside of that timeline. He agreed to work with National Grid on obtaining better schedules from the vendor. Councilor Alcy-Jabouin asked if an emergency required work to be performed on weekends who would be responsible for notifying residents of the work being done and Mr. Swanson responded that it was the Utilities responsibility to notify the residents. Mr. Swanson informed the Committee to refer any complaints they receive to his office. Councilor Pietrantonio inquired what would be the reasons for digging up a public way and Mr. Swanson explained that it would be for either an expansion, new service or to repair leaks. Chairperson Martins referenced roadwork concerns that have been brought to her attention by residents and suggested the Engineers office have a checklist so the City can delay payment until the Engineers office could confirm all the requirements on that checklist were met. Mr. Swanson noted that the Ferry/Elm Streets project which is probably the largest project the City has undertaken is actually under the control of Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) who would be responsible for notifying residents. Mr. Swanson explained that the City Engineers office is not party to those contracts and can only walk a fine line since they don't always have the ability to direct contractors only in an advisory capacity. Councilor Alcy-Jabouin felt the City needed tighter supervision since it appeared the City has no control on what the State and Contractors do. Mr. Swanson acknowledged that the City has a limited amount of control over some of these roadwork projects. Councilor Garcia mentioned street lights not working in the Ferry street areas of Glendale and Shute streets and Mr. Swanson explained some of the issues on getting the lights back on but assured the Councilor that they were working together with the appropriate parties to get those lights back on. Chairperson Martins mentioned that some resident inquiries to the City Engineers office have not been responded to and Mr. Swanson questioned which and assured the Committee he was responding and doing all we can to address any concerns.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to Sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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Councilor John Hanlon, National Grid Operations Support Diana Cuddy as well as two other representatives from National Grid were also present.

The Committee considered a Petition offered by Councilor Robert Van Campen, as President; A petition from National Grid requesting permission to install the following gas mains:

- Approximately 1,100 feet of 8 inch gas main in Boston Street
- Approximately 350 feet of 6 inch gas main in Third Street
- Approximately 200 feet of 8 inch gas main in Second Street
- Approximately 10 feet of 6 inch gas main crossing Second Street

Councilor Garcia asked how long the project would last and Ms. Cuddy responded that it depended on when the Petition and permitting was approved as well as other variables such as whether work can be performed at night and if there were any impacts to school, etc.. Councilor Garcia asked if there would be any staging areas of pipes and Ms. Cuddy explained that National Grid would work that out with the City during the permitting process. Councilor Alcy-Jabouin inquired to National Grid reimbursing for parking and Ms. Cuddy explained that it would only be for private parking areas that National Grid would utilize as staging areas. Councilor Alcy-Jabouin requested that National Grid add date on the notices that they send out. Ms. Cuddy noted that the Project Supervisors name should also be on the notice. Councilor Pietrantonio asked if there would be equipment on site and Ms. Cuddy stated that would be determined as part of the permitting process. Councilor Pietrantonio asked who was paying for this project and Ms. Cuddy informed the Committee that the customers in the project area would be paying for this work which will service a couple of buildings. Councilor Pietrantonio asked if the newer gas line would be hooked up to an older gas line and the National Grid representative informed him that it would be hooked up to a newer line. Councilor Hanlon asked if there were any residents in the project area and Ms. Cuddy responded no. Councilor Hanlon asked if there would be any work on Revere Beach Parkway and Ms. Cuddy responded no. Councilor Hanlon asked if there would be any stoppage in gas service to existing customers during project and Ms. Cuddy responded no. Councilor Hanlon asked if the new high pressure gas line would be connected to a low pressure line and Ms. Cuddy responded no. Ms. Cuddy acknowledged that there would be some work on the east side of Second street but would be working with City on hours of operation and a traffic management plan. She noted that they would either be installing temporary plates or patching. Councilor Hanlon asked if he could watch the process and Ms. Cuddy agreed to welcome him to watch.

The Committee voted 3-1 with Councilor Pietrantonio in opposition: To report back to the City Council with no recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees