

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, March 10, 2025 at 6:00pm 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 Robert Van Campen, presiding, Councilors Michael Marchese, Stephanie Smith and Katy Rogers.

The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilor Robert Van Campen: An Ordinance regulating the demolition of historical structures in the City of Everett.

City Clerk Sergio Cornelio and, Assistant City Solicitor Keith Slattery were also present.

Chairman Van Campen provided the Committee with an updated copy of the proposed Ordinance noting that Solicitor Slattery had offered the following amendments:

- A Severability clause, in the instance any paragraph or portion thereof should fail (eg. Constitutional property rights protections under the 5th and 14th Amendments of state and federal Constitutions). Example:

In case any section, paragraph or part of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, every other section, paragraph and part of this By-Law shall continue in full force and effect.

- A "Penalty" section, placing the public on notice, such as:

Anyone who engages in Demolition in violation of this Ordinance may be subject to a fine of three hundred (\$300) dollars, and a stop work order.

Chairman Van Campen requested further time on the matter while he awaits comments from other City Departments which would allow him to work on the final draft.

The Committee voted: To grant further time so the Sponsor can work on the final draft.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees

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The Committee considered an Order offered by Councilors Stephanie Smith, Robert Van Campen and Councilor Stephanie Martins: An Order amending the Everett City Council Rule regarding pre-planned expenses for travel and conference fees.

Councilor Smith mentioned that at the last Committee meeting CFO Eric Demas had suggested that the proposed Order be amended to incorporate some similar language in the City of Everett Travel Expense Policy. Councilor Smith requested favorable action on the following proposed amendments:

Subsection A of Rule 54 is hereby amended by adding the following 2 new subsection as follows:

3. Generally, city council expense reimbursement rules shall conform with city expense reimbursement policies, including the city's travel expense policy. However, when there is a difference between city policies and city council rules, the city council rules shall prevail.
4. As appropriate, city council expense reimbursement rules shall apply to city council members, individuals appointed solely by the city council and members of the city council's staff.

Subsection B.1.a.i. of Rule 54 is hereby amended by deleting the phrase "for out-of-state travel".

Subsection C.5 of Rule 54 is hereby amended by deleting the current text of the subsection in its entirety and replacing it with a new version of the subsection text as follows:

5. Whenever possible, reservations for pre-planned expenses for travel and conference fees for city council members that are to be paid from funds appropriated for city council expenses shall be made by a member of the city council office staff using a city credit card.
  - a. The associated charges shall be applied to the same line item used to reimburse members for their personal actual and necessary expenses;
  - b. The council staff member who made the reservations shall submit expense reports as necessary for such expenses;

- c. Such expense reports may contain expenses attributed to one or more members; but such reports shall clearly delineate the expenses attributed to each member; and.
- d. For members of the city council staff who have pre-planned expenses for travel and conference fees, the same process shall be followed but the associated charges shall be applied to the department's professional development line item.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
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The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilors Stephanie Smith, Katy Rogers, Guerline Alcy Jabouin, Holly Garcia, Michael Marchese, Peter Pietrantonio, Robert Van Campen and Stephanie Martins: That the City Council hereby deletes section 7-167 Longevity-Mayor in its entirety and replaces it as follows as shown on the attachment.

Councilor Smith informed the Committee that she and Councilor Marchese had proposed a similar Ordinance back in 2022 but were unsuccessful, but she noted that due to the correspondence received from the Office of the Inspector General requesting that the City Council take the appropriate action to remove elected officials from receiving longevity payments. She felt that the Ordinance as drafted would address this matter but she acknowledged that the Committee was in receipt of the following amendment from Councilor Anthony DiPierro:

(C) Going forward, any person employed by the city who has previously held elected office shall no longer have their elected years of service factored into their longevity payment.

Councilor Smith explained that this amendment proposed by Councilor DiPierro would prevent any City Councilor going forward who obtains employment with the City from using their elected years of service towards any longevity.

Councilor Rogers noted that she too had worked on the Ordinance and feels confident that this would address the Office of Inspector General's recommendation.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley  
Clerk of Committees