

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:30pm in City Council Chambers.

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

Members present were Councilor Peter Pietrantonio, presiding and Councilors Katy Rogers and Holly Garcia. Member absent was Councilor Robert Van Campen.

Communication received from Councilor Van Campen that he would be unable to attend due to a family matter.

The Committee met on a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Smith: That the Director of Engineering appear at this meeting to explain why permit applications have been taking months for approval with no response or communication with applicants.

Director of Engineering Eric Swanson and City Engineer Julius Ofurie were also present. Councilor Stephanie Martins, the Sponsor was invited but was not present.

The Committee believed that the matter was previously discussed at a regular City Council meeting and recommended that the matter be referred back to Sponsor.

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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The Committee met on an Order offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins, as President: An Order requesting approval to authorize the City Administration to develop a municipal aggregation plan to take any and all necessary action to prepare the plan for submission to the Massachusetts Public Utilities pursuant to MGL C. 164 S 134.

City Planner Jonatan Frias and Representative from Colonial Power Group – President Mark Cappadona and Senior Vice President Denise Allard were also present.

Mr. Frias provided a power point presentation (attached) along with other documents (attached) to Committee outlining the reasons for implementing a municipal aggregation which would allow the City of Everett to maintain stable electricity prices over an extended period. The City has the option to include a percentage of renewable energy in the electricity plan. Municipal aggregation will allow the City to monitor and set rates for all the residents, but will give a safer option to residents as it serves as a protective measure against third party energy suppliers. Mr. Frias explained that the City met last Spring and Summer with Consultants from Peregrine Energy group, Colonial Power Group and Good Energy as well as meeting with representatives of the communities of Salem, Lawrence and Lowell who have already implemented Municipal Aggregation to help the City of Everett select a supplier for the plan. Through a series of interviews the City of Everett has selected Colonial Power Group as its supplier.

Councilor Garcia asked the Colonial representative how prices could be lowered if National Grid was still involved and Mr. Cappadona explained the Department of Public Utilities process. Councilor Rogers remarked that it sounded like it was a city tool to help reduce electricity costs for residents and the representatives concurred that it was and noted that residents could move freely in program at no risk in which they could automatically be enrolled or that they could opt out. Chairman Pietrantonio asked if they were like a middleman in helping the City get the best rate and Mr. Cappadona responded that they were and indicated that they providing a commodity which was a risk on the supplier who wins the bid. Mr. Cappadona acknowledged that Colonial Power Group would obtain a fee of 1/10th of a penny per kilowatt. The representatives of Colonial informed the Committee that they were required to reach out to all residents by individual mailing and would also be holding various community meetings on the Municipal Aggregation plan. Councilor Garcia requested that Colonial Power Group be transparent to all residents.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council at its April 24th regular meeting with no recommendation with a request that the Colonial Power Group representatives and City Planner Jonatan Frias be invited to attend to address any questions from other City Council members.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees