

#1 - C0364-25

Ways and Means Committee
December 1, 2025

The Committee on Ways and Means met on Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Smith, presiding; Councilors John Hanlon, Anthony DiPierro and Peter Pietrantonio.

The Committee met on an Order offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins, as President: An Order requesting approval to accept and expend a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation in the amount of \$100,000 to be used for watering trees.

Tree Warden Jacob St. Louis was also present.

The Committee was in receipt of an email response from Mr. St. Louis to a number of questions submitted by Chairperson Smith (attached).

Mr. St. Louis explained that the trees with high priority being watered were newer trees along City streets while the newer trees in parks and along the Gateway mall area were considered a lower priority when it came to watering. He noted that approximately 80 new trees were planted in the City. He informed the Committee that the trees were being watered by outside contractors.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
EVERETT, MA
2025 DEC -2 A 8:44

From: Jacob StLouis <Jacob.StLouis@ci.everett.ma.us>

Date: December 1, 2025 at 9:14:33 AM EST

To: Stephanie Smith <Stephanie.Smith@ci.everett.ma.us>, Stephanie Martins <Stephanie.Martins@ci.everett.ma.us>

Subject: RE: Questions regarding tree watering

Good morning, Stephanie Smith, Stephanie Martins,

1. the main question was the location of the trees, whether they are the newly planted ones at Gateway or the trees along route 16 and Santilli Circle,

The trees to be watered are public shade trees along City streets. It includes some recently planted trees such as those along Franklin Street and some planned Spring plantings such as Lexington Street. It may include trees planted at Gateway Mall but street trees are the priority with this funding.

2. why is this being paid for where we haven't heard of a tree watering charge in the past

Watering has been paid for with Grant funding in the past, it's typically included in "tree planting and maintenance".

3. Is this a new grant or do we get it every year? If it is not a new grant, who is in charge of the grant distribution now? Is it the DPW?

The City of Everett has received the Grant during FY 24, 25 and 26. The grant is managed by the Department of Planning and Development, DPW does not manage the grant distribution.

4. Is this a matching grant or is it free and clear?

This is a reimbursement grant, we expended the funds with internal money and then submit invoices for reimbursement to the state grant administrator.

5. How will it be tracked?

Periodic reimbursement requests are submitted to the state grant administrator with invoices for charges.

6. What is the \$100K for?

For watering City owned trees including contractors, staff and approved equipment.

7. Is this for water charges or OT charges for the DPW employees?

We are primarily intending to hire contractors. City staff watering is much cheaper than contracted so some funds may be used for DPW overtime watering, if equipment and staff are available.

8. What trees are going to be watered under this grant? Is it all trees in the City? Is it Gateway Plaza or State-road specific? Is it just trees or does it include islands?

Trees on City streets such as those planted on Franklin Street this fall and trees planned to be planted on Lexington Street next Spring. Only trees capable of shading and cooling the City are eligible for watering under this grant.

9. How are trees in the City watered and paid for now?

Watering has been closed for the season. This year City trees were watered on overtime by DPW staff with grant funds and by State staff under their Greening the Gateway Cities Program.

10. How is this \$100K going to be tracked?

Periodic reimbursement requests are sent to the state grant administrator along with invoices for services.

Thank you,

Jacob St.Louis | Tree Warden
City of Everett | 617-394-2334

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Members present were Councilor Stephanie Smith, presiding; Councilors John Hanlon, Anthony DiPierro and Peter Pietrantonio.

The Committee met on an Order offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins, as President: An Order requesting the approval of additional amount of \$455,000 be appropriated by borrowing for the Everett Police Station roof improvement project.

Director of Facilities Angelo Febbo and Procurement Officer Kiara Freeman were also present.

Councilor Hanlon inquired about the bonding process and Ms. Freeman explained that this was something that was done by the City Treasurer but still provided an overview of the process to the Committee. Councilor Pietrantonio expressed concern over the additional costs noting that the building was way past its useful life. Mr. Febbo explained that they originally tried to go with a less expensive option noting the age of the building but found through a roofing consultant that the work needed was far more extensive than originally estimated. In addition the garage roof was now being included in the project resulting in a total roof replacement that would now also require a lot of the equipment on the roof to be disconnected and reconnected. He remarked that the roof was not going to wait until a new Police Station was constructed. Councilor Pietrantonio asked if there was any interior damage and Mr. Febbo responded that his Department had remediated some interior leaks and that there was nothing major or structural preventing the building from being occupied. Ms. Freeman noted that once the City Council approves the Order then she would put it out to bid in January.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees