

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Monday, February 8, 2021 at 6pm remotely through the Zoom web application.

Members present were Councilor Anthony DiPierro, presiding, Councilors Rosa DiFlorio, Fred Capone and Stephanie Martins.

The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilors Anthony DiPierro and Stephanie Martins: That the Everett City Council hereby amends the salary of the Everett School Committee.

City Solicitor Colleen Mejia, Mayors Chief of Staff Erin Deveney, City Clerk Sergio Cornelio and School Committee Chairman Frank Parker and were also present remotely.

Councilor Martins informed the members that the proposed increase in salary was not something that was asked for from the School Committee but something that she had observed the work in which they were doing and felt that since they had not received an annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) she felt that an annual salary at \$15,000 with a 2% COLA commencing the following year. The Committee was in receipt of School Committee compensation information from abutting communities compiled by the City Clerk and Clerk of Committees. Mr. Parker explained that he didn't have the time to reach out to other gateway communities but noted that the Everett School Committee did get reimbursed for expenses. Councilor DiFlorio stated that she couldn't support the proposed \$15,000 but suggested that it be amended to \$12,500 with a 2% annual COLA and that 4 years later it be increased to \$15,000. She remarked that this would be fair and bring the School Committee up to where they should be since the COLA was inadvertently left out of the last salary change ordinance. Mr. Cornelio concurred that the main intent is to now include a COLA. Chairman DiPierro announced that he supports a COLA but would leave it up to the Council on what they felt was an appropriate salary. Councilor Capone stated that he understood the intent of a salary adjustment and knows that the School Committee works hard and understood the need to attract candidates that are willing to take the time out of their own personal schedule for school related matters. He asked Mr. Parker what the School Committee felt was fair for a salary and Mr. Parker responded that the responsibilities of the School Committee shouldn't be measured by the meetings or events they attend since stuff goes on everyday including constant training, but felt that any salary adjustment should rectify what a COLA would have provided. Councilor Capone asked if \$12,500 proposed along with a COLA was fair and Mr. Parker responded yes it was fair.

Councilor Capone suggested a few changes to the proposed language by striking out the reference to "salary of councilors" and replace with "salary of School Committee" and by striking out the word "all" members of the School Committee and replace with "elected" members of the School Committee as well as adding at the end of the Ordinance "The Mayor shall be excluded from receiving a salary". The Committee also recommended that the "\$15,000 be amended to \$12,500 annually effective January 1, 2022" with the 2% COLA proposed remaining intact in the proposal with the following language also being added " and \$15,000 annually effective January 1, 2026". All proposed amendments listed above were approved unanimously by the Committee.

The Committee voted: to report back to the City Council with a recommendation for Favorable action as amended with the changes listed above.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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Members present were Councilor Anthony DiPierro, presiding, Councilors Rosa DiFlorio, Fred Capone and Stephanie Martins.

The Committee considered an Ordinance offered by Councilors Stephanie Martins: That the Everett City Council hereby establishes an Ordinance creating a Everett Housing Trust Fund.

City Solicitor Colleen Mejia, Mayors Chief of Staff Erin Deveney, and Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas were also present remotely.

Councilor Martins provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation on her proposed Housing Trust Fund Ordinance. She explained that the purpose is to establish a Housing Trust Fund to support developers and government entities in the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation and modification of affordable and accessible housing for low income and moderate income households and to finance support services that assist these households in obtaining and maintaining affordable housing. She provided an overview of the Administration of the Fund which would be administered by the City of Everett Department of Planning and Development with final decision on distribution of funds by the Board of Trustees composed of the Mayor and Everett Housing Task Force. She explained who would be included in the Trustee membership and explained the various potential funding sources outlined in proposal. Councilor Capone questioned if there would now be two different accounts for affordable housing with one being for linkage fees and the other the Housing Trust Fund. Councilor Martins explained that the intent was to have the linkage fees placed into the Trust Fund. Mr. Demas informed the members that the linkage fees are required to go into a special revolving fund but could be transferred into the Trust. Councilor Capone asked if the intent was for the City of Everett to guarantee loans and Councilor Martins responded yes. Councilor Capone informed the members that he would like to see the City Council being added for approval in the forgiven of any monies in Section 3 of the proposal and asked Solicitor Mejia if there were any State Statutes that would prohibit adding the City Council however Mr. Demas interjected that State Statute would allow it and Councilor Capone announced he would be proposing this amendment. Councilor Martins informed the members that she would be providing the membership with additional links and materials and requested further time be granted.

The Committee voted: to grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees