

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Monday, October 26, 2020 at 6pm.

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding, Councilors Michael Marchese, John Hanlon and Michael Mclaughlin.

ECTV Director Deanna Deveney and Assistant Director Bobby Barrett were also present.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael Mclaughlin: That the ECTV Director appear to discuss the programming on ECTV.

Councilor Mclaughlin informed the Committee that he had provided Ms Deveney a list a questions pertaining to the ECTV operations over a week ago, but noted that he understood if she wasn't able to answer all the questions since she had only been in the position a few months. Ms. Deveney announced that she was prepared and provided Councilor Mclaughlin a package that contained salary and contract costs that he had asked for. She informed the Committee that the ECTV budget cost the taxpayers \$0 because it was funded through the service provider to City. She stated that ECTV had no paid advertisements nor were there any costs for social media. Councilor Mclaughlin inquired to ECTV use for elections and Ms. Deveney responded that anyone can use. Mr. Barrett discussed the past history of ECTV use for elections. Councilor Mclaughlin stated that he would like to see some standard procedures for election use and Ms. Deveney agreed to draft guidelines and provide him with a copy next week. Councilor Mclaughlin discussed some of the shows that use to be on ECTV in the past and suggested that ECTV expand programming. Ms. Deveney reminded the Committee that due to the pandemic City Hall had been closed for several months, but remarked if anyone had any ideas for programming let's do it. Mr. Barrett informed the Committee that programming that they would usually do such as square dedications, July 4th festivities, Villagefest and other City events during the year couldn't be done due to the pandemic, but acknowledged that other independent and religious programs were taking advantage in using ECTV. Councilor Marchese mentioned the political and cooking shows that use to be aired by ECTV and suggested that they explore doing something similar as well as consider doing 10 week introductory language courses. Mr. Barrett alluded to the exercise classes that were currently being run by ECTV. Councilor Mclaughlin asked what the cost was for the City to send out Robo calls and who made the decision. Ms. Deveney responded that the cost was paid out of the Fire Department budget from a grant and that the decision on what was sent out via Robo calls was made by the Administration. Councilor Mclaughlin expressed concerned that no one took these calls seriously anymore because they were constantly be inundated with these calls and he afraid it would result in people overlooking the emergency related calls. Ms. Deveney stated that it was a great tool to keep the public informed of what was going on in the community and that it was basically being used for public safety, events and important messages such as Covid and parking related matters. Councilor Mclaughlin suggested that ECTV be utilized for non emergency related matters.

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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Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding, Councilors Michael Marchese, John Hanlon and Michael McLaughlin.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That Deb Fallon from Portal Hope attend this meeting to provide an update on the state of domestic violence in the City of Everett.

Communication received from Ms. Fallon that she would be unable to attend due to a personal matter and requested that the Committee grant her further time.

The Committee voted: To grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees