

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6pm remotely through the Zoom web application.

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael McLaughlin, Richard Dell Isola and Jimmy Le.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That the Everett Community Aid Network (ECAN) provide information on how community members have been assisting fellow neighbors and how individuals might reach out for help.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney was also present.

Chairperson Martins informed the Committee that the invited guests had a conflict with being present at tonight's meeting and she requested that the matter be referred back to Sponsor so that she could explore another format that would work for all so they could provide their presentation on the work and support they provide to the residents of Everett.

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 and Councilors Michael McLaughlin, Richard Dell Isola and Jimmy Le.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Stephanie Martins: That a Representative from Xfinity/Comcast appear at this meeting to explain why Everett is receiving the second lowest internet download speeds in the State and what kind of infrastructure would be necessary to improve the service.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney, Communications Director Deanna Deveney, Comcast Representatives Angela Holm, Tim Kelly and Jim Hevner were also present.

Chairperson Martins referenced the report conducted by the Massachusetts Area Planning Council as it related to internet speeds in the Greater Boston area and noted that people in Everett relied heavily on the internet for work and education during the pandemic and wanted to know why other communities were faring better. Mr. Kelly explained that Comcast represented 310 communities in Massachusetts and announced that he would have Mr. Hevner provide an explanation on the network in the City and how it measures up to other communities. Mr. Hevner provided the Committee with a PowerPoint presentation that showed a map on how the Comcast network operates with 13 various points that ultimately provides the service to the customers premise equipment. Councilor Le remarked that the presentation was a lot of technical jargon that he didn't understand and noted that his internet worked fine. Chairperson Martins retorted that the internet problems were affecting everyone regardless of what Comcast package they had since it was the same infrastructure. Mr. Hevner explained that the monitoring of service was the same for every community so that they could insure that it was working optimal. Mr. Kelly told the Committee if there are issues they will hunt down and fix. Councilor Dell Isola asked if there were any other communities experiencing similar problems to Everett. Ms. Holm responded that there was one Community and referenced the Town of Winthrop, but indicated that the problem could be the result of different variables such as members of a household gaming, streaming and videoing all at the same time or that the issue could be the architecture of the house. She acknowledged that she was dealing with a list of similar issues of Everett residents that Councilor Martins had provided her with. Councilor Dell Isola asked if the problem could be more people working from home using the internet and Ms. Holm explained that she hadn't seen a steep hike and Mr. Kelly explained that it wasn't a capacity problem but that it could be as simple as just the positioning of the gateway in the home. Councilor Dell Isola suggested that Comcast place their service number for internet related issues on ECTV. Councilor McLaughlin mentioned the internet services issues in the neighborhood of Main Street and requested that they look into that. Councilor McLaughlin asked what the City Council could do to assist Comcast in getting this problem fixed and Mr. Kelly responded by having them at this meeting because they wanted to provide the best service possible. Councilor McLaughlin asked if they kept a record of service complaints for the City and Mr. Kelly stated that they are required to provide a form 500 to every community that outlines service calls for that community which is then provided to the Mayor. Councilor McLaughlin asked if he could forward a copy of

previous ones for comparison purposes and Mr. Kelly agreed to provide 2019 & 2020 to City Council. Chairperson Martins asked Ms. Holm to explain the study that was conducted on internet services by MAPC. Ms. Holms provided the Committee with an overview of the study and report and noted that it was mostly a volunteer study and questioned if it was an accurate representation of the internet service being provided. Mr. Kelly stated that they are here to help and try to fix any problems. Chairperson Martin requested that Comcast keep prices down and not do data caps and Mr. Kelly agreed to take note and report back. Mr. Kelly informed the Committee of a pilot program called Liftzone that Comcast was looking to do within the community that would provide internet services in a large safe facility that working parents could send their children while they worked. Ms. Deanna Deveney informed the Committee that she had hooked them up with some non-profit organizations that were interested in the program. Councilor McLaughlin stated that he would like to support this program and requested that the representatives provide more information on it. Ms. Deanna Deveney announced that the City would be having MAPC come into the community to perform a detailed access plan which would result in them conducting a deep dive into data research relating to internet services and she asked that Comcast support. Mr. Kelly agreed that Comcast would be supportive.

The Committee voted: To grant further time for 60 days with a request that Comcast place their service number on ECTV for internet related service problems.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 6pm remotely through the Zoom web application.

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Mclaughlin, Richard Dell Isola and Jimmy Le.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael Mclaughlin: That State Representative Joe McGonagle give a detailed outline of all funding earmarks that were secured for the City of Everett and the Everett Public Schools in the year 2020 and the results of funding that was received for each earmark.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney and State Senator Sal DiDomenico were also present.

Councilor Mclaughlin expressed his displeasure that the State Representative was not present. Senator DiDomenico informed the Committee that he understood that the Representative did provide a document to the City Council Office.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer back to Sponsor.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
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Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael McLaughlin, Richard Dell Isola and Jimmy Le.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael McLaughlin: That State Senator Sal DiDomenico give a detailed outline of all funding earmarks that were secured for the City of Everett and the Everett Public Schools in the year 2020 and the results of funding that was received for each earmark.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney, State Senator Sal DiDomenico and Senate Aide Christie Getto Young were also present.

Councilor McLaughlin thanked the Senator for always coming through and delivering for the City of Everett. Senator DiDomenico informed the Committee that there were two types of funding sources with one being Bond funding that could occur over a period of 1 to 3 years or the other funding source would be that of the State budget which would be a guarantee funding source if it was in the annual State budget. He provided the Committee with a quick rundown of the earmarks intended and received by the City in 2020 for Food distribution, COVID relief, Parks, Transportation & road construction, Opioid crisis, Economic Development and especially for the Schools for Education, Music, Technology and After School programs. He agreed to provide the City Council with a document that would list each earmark and its dollar value. He noted that there would be additional good news for the Schools with the announcement coming soon that there would be Federal Funds also being provided. Councilor McLaughlin asked what the difference as between secured and actual funds and Senator DiDomenico explained the bond bill process and emphasized that items had to be pushed through in order to be considered. Ms. Young expanded upon the budget and bond processes. The Senator acknowledged that it takes teamwork from the State Representative and Mayor to get these earmarks through the State Legislator. Councilor McLaughlin asked the Senator to explain the Student Opportunity Act and Senator DiDomenico remarked that it was one of his proudest moments as a Senator to correct the inequities of the School funding formula by overhauling the whole process which was a game changer for school districts like Chelsea and Everett. Chairperson Martins asked the Senator how the City Council could help in the funding of these earmarks and Senator DiDomenico and Ms. Young responded it would be great if they could provide their written support of the respective earmarks.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the Senator to provide a detailed list of the all earmarks for City of Everett 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees