

The Committee on Legislative Affairs & Elections met on Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6pm remotely through the Zoom web application.

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

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 an Everett Housing Trust Fund.

Assistant City Solicitor Keith Slattery and Mayors Chief of Staff Erin Deveney were also present remotely.

Councilor Martins provided the Committee with a summary of her prior presentation on the subject matter at the Committee meeting held on February 8, 2021. As agreed, she emailed all the members a 28 page guidebook on Municipal Affordable Housing Trusts in addition to a list of members on the Everett Affordable Housing Task Force. She referenced that MGL Chapter 44 Section 55C allowed for the establishment of an Affordable Housing Trust Fund. She reviewed what an Affordable Housing Trust Fund was, how it was funded, what the funds can be used for and who manages the fund. She stated that the next step in the process is the acceptance of the Ordinance creating the Affordable Housing Trust Fund by majority vote of the City Council. Once that has been done then the Mayor will make his appointments that will require City Council approval. She explained that the newly formed Board would need to meet to create bylaws which would need to be certified by the City Council as well. Attorney Slattery noted that the bylaws would also be reviewed by the State Attorney General. Councilor Martins noted that at this point the City Council would have no involvement with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund other than the Board would be required to report all activity annually to the City Council. She remarked that she was hopeful the Mayor would appoint the current members of the Housing Task Force. Councilor Capone informed the Committee that he wasn't a fan of some of the funding sources listed under Section 1-4. Councilor Capone suggested that Section 3 be amended and Attorney Slattery concurred that it could be done now by the City Council. Councilors Martins was of the belief that the Board of Trustees had the full power and suggested that Board could include the proposed amendment in its bylaws, but she ultimately agreed to Councilor Capone's suggestion to amend Section 3. Councilor Capone recommended that the end of Section 3 be amended to include the following language "Any loan, grant, or other disbursement that is tendered without a requirement of repayment, or forgiven in whole or in part after the fact, shall require approval by a majority vote of the entire City Council." The Committee vote unanimously in favor of the amendment.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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The Committee considered an Order offered by Councilor Richard Dell Isola: That the City Council adopt Rule 7.6, Remote Video Conferencing Meeting Decorum.

Assistant City Solicitor Keith Slattery and Councilor Richard Dell Isola, the Sponsor were also present remotely.

Councilor Dell Isola acknowledged that having meetings done remotely through Zoom was new to everyone trying to get use to it. He stated that these rules were something that needed to be done and referenced that five (5) of the proposed rules itself were broken at the meeting the rule change was proposed. He remarked that he hoped that the new rules will help make the meetings go smoother. Councilor DiFlorio agreed that the rules were needed for remote meetings but asserted that the meetings needed to be back at City Hall. Councilor Capone wondered if the proposed rule should be amended to allow a member with a broken leg or other reasonable need for an accommodation to be allowed to participate remotely. Attorney Slattery reminded the Committee that remoted meetings were currently being allowed only through an Executive Order and that participation remotely once the Executive Order was rescinded would not be allowed unless it was amended to do so. Councilor Capone agreed and noted that the City Council could always go back and amend if the Executive Order is amended to allow participation remotely. Councilor Martins thanked the Sponsor for bringing this up noting that it was needed, reasonable and inclusive. Councilor Dell Isola informed the Committee that he had recently participated in a Somerville City Council meeting and found that they were having similar issues with their meetings.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees