

GENERAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

MAY 25, 2021

9:30 A.M. – 10:10 A.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: DEPUTY MAYOR PRATT (CHAIR), MAYOR RYDER, COUNCILMEMBER GREENSTEIN

STAFF PRESENT: SCOTT SPENCE, RICK WALK, PERI EDMONDS

ACTION: APPROVE THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED, AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBER GREENSTEIN AND MAYOR RYDER

BUILDING PERMIT FEE WAIVERS

STAFF: RICK WALK, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

The City of Lacey's Affordable Housing Strategy identified expanding the program that waives fees for non-profits building low-income housing to include private sector builders building low-income housing as a priority action item.

The Lacey Municipal Code (LMC) 1.20 currently authorizes the City Manager to waive certain development fees for non-profits and community-based housing development organizations that fit certain criteria. The eligible fees to be waived include building, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, plan check, and water meter fees. Wastewater connection and general discharge fees can also be waived for certain affordable housing development projects. The City Council could also authorize the City Manager to waive fees for private sector developers building low-income units.

If Council considers this amendment, criteria and conditions will need to be established to determine which units meet the community's needs for low-income housing, and meet state law regarding use of public funds.

Multiple initial elements of a fee waiver program have been developed for Council's consideration based on feedback from the residential, building, and social service communities.

At the request of the Finance & Economic Development Committee at their June 23, 2020, meeting, staff met with the Government Affairs Committee of the Olympia Master

Builders (OMB) to discuss the program. The OMB was supportive of the options and did not have detailed feedback.

Staff advised the purpose of the briefing is to re-introduce the proposal to expand fee waivers in the LMC 1.20 to all developers that construct housing for moderate and low-income households, to have a general discussion of program criteria, and receive guidance on developing a draft program and start community outreach.

The Committee discussed using the same playing field for private industry as they do for non-profits, defining the square footage for a starter home, and adding incentives for building homes with a smaller footprint.

The Committee requested staff bring back a couple of scenarios for discussion.

SALVATION ARMY'S HOMELESS VETERAN SERVICE EXPANSION

STAFF: RICK WALK, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
CAPTAIN JARED ARNOLD, SALVATION ARMY
KEITH LOOKER, LACEY VETERANS SERVICES HUB
ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

The Committee was briefed on the Salvation Army's Veteran's Community Housing Program. After performing a needs assessment in early 2020, the Salvation Army realized the need to expand services for homeless veterans in the City of Lacey.

The agency applied for the Homeless Providers Grant Per Diem (GPD) program to expand their program and bed count to provide support services for veterans for two years. They will not know if funds will be awarded until sometime between July and September. In the meantime, they have received funding from private donors in order to begin the program.

They are currently working with a Lacey hotel to reserve 10 rooms to house 10 single homeless veterans. The goal is to provide housing in close proximity to the Lacey Veterans Services Hub so veterans can easily receive wrap around services.