

January 18, 2025

The special meeting/retreat of the Everett City Council was called to order at 9:05 a.m., January 18, 2025, by President Schwab.

Upon roll call it was found that Mayor Franklin and Council Members Fosse, Rhyne, Schwab, Vogeli, Zarlingo, Bader, and Tuohy were present. Also present were Retreat Facilitator Kathy Solberg; Finance Consultant Mike Bailey; and City staff: Executive Directors Lori Cummings and Dan Templeman, City Attorney David Hall, Police Chief John DeRousse, Planning Director Yorik Stevens-Wajda, Finance Director Heide Brillantes, Council Administrator Angela Ely, and City Clerk Marista Jorve.

Opening

President Schwab opened the 2025 Council retreat. Mayor Franklin introduced Police Chief DeRousse to provide a public safety update, including an update regarding a recent stabbing of a 13-year-old near North Middle School.

President Schwab introduced Kathy Solberg, CEO of CommonUnity, and facilitator for the retreat, who provided an overview of the day's agenda and highlighted 2024 successes.

Financial Work Presentation and discussion

Mike Bailey, financial consultant, provided a presentation of the financial and budget policy.

The Council retreat recessed for a break at 10:08 a.m. and reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

Discussion ensued regarding policy making, including the long-range financial plan in the preliminary budget, legally vs. structurally balancing the budget, budget calendar, community involvement, staffing, and lessons from the failure of the levy lid lift.

Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update

Planning Director Yorik Stevens-Wajda provided an overview of the Comprehensive Plan periodic update and calendar.

Discussion ensued regarding the calendar and scheduling briefings, suggesting amendments, and Council's role for the upcoming update.

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The Council retreat recessed for a break at 11:44 a.m. and reconvened at 12:17 p.m.

Additional discussion ensued regarding annexation.

Organized Retail Crime

Mike Johnson, Washington Retail Association, provided a presentation on organized retail crime.

Discussion ensued regarding theft, police stings, and federal advocacy to tackle retail crime.

Committee Structure - 2025 Options

Kathy opened a discussion regarding Committee structure. Council members discussed their options for this year's committees: combining meetings/committees, having budget meetings first, comprehensive plan meetings, possible overlap of topics at multiple meetings, implications of staff time, and annual goals for committees.

Council initiated policy process and analyst support options

Kathy led a discussion regarding Council initiated policy process including staff time on legislation, prioritization, and having Legal evaluate Council requests and process improvements going forward for Council legislation. Council then extensively discussed analyst support options.

The Council retreat recessed for a break at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:17 p.m.

2025 Newsletter

President Schwab stated he wanted to discuss the newsletter and efforts going into the newsletter in the new year. Council discussed the creation of the newsletter, future ideas for keeping citizens informed, and processing of the newsletter.

Focus Direction for 2025

Discussion ensued regarding the following suggested top priorities: budget, public safety, emergency management, economic development, homelessness and housing, and cost of living

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and affordability. Discussion ensued with budget, public safety, and housing/homelessness as the three main topics and how the committees can address those topics throughout the year.

Closure and Next Steps

The retreat was closed, and Kathy will prepare the follow up report and send to Council.

The special meeting adjourned at 2:47 p.m.



City Clerk

Read and approved.



Council President

1.18.2025 Council retreat minutes

Final Audit Report

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