



Meeting Agenda

City Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Information: 360.753.8244

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

5:30 PM

Council Chambers

Special Meeting of Committee Chairs of General Government, Finance and Land Use & Environment

1. ROLL CALL

2. BUSINESS ITEM

- 2.A** [17-0198](#) Special Meeting to Develop a Referral to Various City Council Committees or a Newly Formed Ad Hoc Committee for the Purpose of Developing a Broader City Response to Housing Affordability

Attachments: [Staff Report and Draft Charter for Ad Hoc Housing Committee](#)

3. ADJOURNMENT

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City Council

Special Meeting to Develop a Referral to Various City Council Committees or a Newly Formed Ad Hoc Committee for the Purpose of Developing a Broader City Response to Housing Affordability

Agenda Date: 2/21/2017
Agenda Item Number: 2.A
File Number: 17-0198

Type: discussion **Version:** 1 **Status:** Other Business

Title

Special Meeting to Develop a Referral to Various City Council Committees or a Newly Formed Ad Hoc Committee for the Purpose of Developing a Broader City Response to Housing Affordability

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not previously referred to a Committee

City Manager Recommendation:

Conduct a special meeting of the three City Council Committee Chairs (Finance Committee, General Government Committee and Land Use and Environment Committee) to develop a referral plan for addressing the issue of housing affordability

Report

Issue:

Whether to refer the work items associated to address housing affordability to existing City Council Committees or to propose establishment of a new ad hoc committee or some combination.

Staff Contact:

Steve Hall, City Manager, (360) 753-8447
Keith Stahley, Director, CP&D, (360) 753-8227

Presenter(s):

Steve Hall
Keith Stahley

Background and Analysis:

Housing Affordability is a growing concern in Olympia, Thurston County and the Puget Sound Region. The current supply of available homes for rent or sale is low driving up costs and reducing overall affordability. The lowest income populations in Thurston County are having an especially

difficult time finding and affording decent housing.

The City's ability to influence and direct the overall housing market is relatively small but the City does have some influence particularly through land use regulation, zoning and fees. The City has also been very proactive for a city its size in finding creative ways to advantage and support low income housing for the very poor and the homeless.

Recently, a group of affordable housing advocates has been encouraging the cities of Lacey, Tumwater and Olympia to raise more funds to provide seed money for more affordable housing in Thurston County.

At its January 2017 City Council Retreat, the Council indicated an interest in establishing a new Ad Hoc Committee to help the City be strategic in how it addresses the Housing affordability issue.

On February 14, Council member Cooper suggested that the three Committee Chairs meet to recommend a plan for tackling the issue of housing affordability. Council concurred. A special meeting was quickly set for February 21 to begin this discussion of Council member Cooper's proposal.

Staff had previously drafted a staff report and charter for an ad hoc committee. It is attached for reference purposes only.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Housing affordability is a communitywide issue.

Financial Impact:

The City has very few resources or staff devoted to the topic of housing affordability. Creation of a new committee or a significant work plan would need new additional staffing and funding to be successful.

Attachments:

Staff Report and Draft Charter for Ad Hoc Housing Committee



City Council

Approval of a Charter for an Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee

Agenda Date: 2/7/2017
Agenda Item Number: 4.C
File Number: 17-0123

Type: decision **Version:** 1 **Status:** Consent Calendar

Title

Approval of a Charter for an Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee

Recommended Action

Committee Recommendation:

Not referred to a committee.

City Manager Recommendation:

Move to approve the Charter for an Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee.

Report

Issue:

Whether to approve a Charter for an Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee.

Staff Contact:

Keith Stahley, Director Community Planning and Development Department 360.753.8227

Presenter(s):

Keith Stahley, Director Community Planning and Development Department

Background and Analysis:

At the City Council's January 13, 2017 Retreat the council discussed the need for an Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee.

The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee's initial work plan will consist of:

1. **Housing Funding Options** - Work with local housing providers and interest groups to determine the scope, scale and approach to a possible funding options.
2. **Tool Box** - Review the Housing Tool Box and related affordable housing tools and develop strategies and priorities for deploying these resources based on the realities of local housing market.
3. **Community Investment Partnership and HOME Funds** - Develop a coherent and strategic approach to prioritizing and targeting these funds and for working with decision makers to advance Olympia's strategic objectives.

- 4. Staffing and Support** - Consider resources to fund staff assigned to implement these objectives including an overall housing affordability strategy, a public communications plan and a regional coordination plan.

Neighborhood/Community Interests (if known):

Housing and homelessness affect the entire city.

Options:

1. Approve the Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee Charter
2. Do not approve the Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee Charter
3. Refer the Charter to Council Committee for additional review.

Financial Impact:

The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee will be supported

Attachments:

Proposed Charter

Charter

Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Committee

January 31, 2017

Chartering Authority: City Council.

Introduction: At the City Council's January 13, 2017 Retreat the City Council agreed to form an Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee

Membership: The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee consists of three councilmembers. (Initially Mayor Pro Tem Jones as Chair, Councilmember Hankins and Councilmember Cooper)

Committee Purpose: The growing urgency and impact of homelessness and the effect of cost burdened households is evident throughout Thurston County. The recently opened Warming Center is seeing over 200 people per day. According to the survey done by the Thurston Economic Development Council, as a precursor to the Downtown Strategy, the impacts of homelessness on downtown businesses is one of their primary concerns. According to the United Way of Thurston County's ALICE Report over 35% of Thurston County residents and 41% of Olympia's residents struggle to afford basic necessities. The necessities include: housing, food, child care, health care and transportation.

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction reports that countywide 1,526 students were identified as homeless in the 2014-2015 schoolyear up from 889 in 2009-2010. A 71% increase. School age homelessness continues to impact our region with over 444 students being identified as homeless in the Olympia School District and 754 in the North Thurston School District. Of the 1,526 students identified as homeless in 2014-2015, 85 were identified as unsheltered.

The City sees a role for itself in helping to understand and respond to these and other related issues and to help to clearly articulate an Olympia perspective on these issues at a local and regional level.

The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee will work with staff to develop a greater understanding of these issues and to consider policy options for addressing these issues at a local and regional level. The committee will develop and present recommendations to City Council for Council's consideration.

The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee's initial work plan will consist of:

1. **Housing Funding Options** – Work with local housing providers and interest groups to determine the scope, scale and approach to a possible funding options.
2. **Tool Box** – Review the Housing Tool Box and related affordable housing tools and develop strategies and priorities for deploying these resources based on the realities of local housing market.
3. **Community Investment Partnership and HOME Funds** – Develop a coherent and strategic approach to prioritizing and targeting these funds and for working with decision makers to advance Olympia's strategic objectives.
4. **Staffing and Support** – Consider resources to fund staff assigned to implement these objectives including an overall housing affordability strategy, a public communications plan and a regional coordination plan.

Operations:

- The Ad Hoc Housing and Homelessness Coordinating Committee will meet on a regular basis and will publish a list of meetings at the beginning of each year. Meetings occurring outside the regular published meeting times shall be considered to be special meetings and shall be noticed.
- Meeting minutes shall be posted in a manner consistent with all other Council Committees.
- A temporary staff liaison shall be appointed by the City Manager and shall provide short-term administrative and technical support to the committee as may reasonably be required until additional staffing can be supported.
- The Chair shall report Committee activity on a regular basis under City Council Reports and shall schedule study sessions as needed to keep Council informed of its work.

Timeline:

- The committee should prioritize its work plan to complement regional efforts around a possible funding initiatives and Community Investment Partnership and HOME funding cycles.