

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026
PUBLIC HEARING NO. 1 MEETING MINUTES

The public hearing meeting of the Everett Charter Review Committee was called to order at 4:30 p.m., March 26, 2026, by Chair Sniffen, at the Everett Public Library – Evergreen Branch, located at 9512 Evergreen Way, Everett, WA 98204.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Members Present: Brady Begin, Leland Dart, Grant Harrington, Emily Hoke, Shari Ireton, Tom Norcott, Zsofia Pasztor, Alan Rubio, Rod Sniffen, Elizabeth Stenhouse, John Traynor, Eli Vasquez, and Deb Williams.

Committee Members Absent: Randy Bolerjack and Mason Rutledge

City Staff: Jennifer Gregerson (Government Affairs Director), Ashleigh Scott (Legal Administrator), and Lisa Syravong (Administration).

2. INTRODUCTION

Chair Sniffen opened the public hearing by explaining its purpose and outlining how the meeting would proceed. The committee is currently reviewing the city charter, a process that takes place every ten years, with the last review completed in 2016. Sniffen noted that prior charter review materials are available online for public reference.

The committee is evaluating all input received, both from the public and from committee members, and will deliver recommendations to the City Council by June 1st. Any final decisions or changes to the city charter will be made by the City Council.

Sniffen then reviewed the logistics for public comment. Five individuals had already signed in to speak, and additional attendees were invited to fill out a form if they wished to provide remarks. Each speaker would be allotted three (3) minutes, with some flexibility for additional time given the number of presenters. Sniffen emphasized that the goal was to hear all comments from those wishing to participate.

3. PRESENTATION: WHAT IS THE EVERETT CHARTER

Chair Sniffen introduced Jennifer Gregerson, who was asked to explain the purpose and scope of the Everett City Charter, and clarify what the Charter Review Committee can and cannot address.



Jennifer described the city charter as a foundational rule book or constitution for Everett’s government. It defines how the city is structured, how decisions are made, and how authority is distributed. She emphasized that the charter governs the system of government, not day-to-day operations, individuals projects, or service-level concerns.

She outlined the purpose of the charter review process, which occurs every ten (10) years. Its goal is to determine whether the current governmental structures continue to serve Everett effectively or whether updates are needed. Possible changes could involve:

- Adjusting leadership or restructuring responsibilities
- Clarifying outdated or confusing language
- Updating representation systems, such as the number and structure of council districts
- Revising roles across elected officials, staff, boards, and commissions

Jennifer stressed that while the committee makes recommendations, voters ultimately decide whether any proposed changes will be adopted, after the City Council places selected items on the ballot.

She then listed topics already raised or under discussion, including:

- Local initiative processes
- Eligibility requirements for elected office
- Potential term limits
- Whether individuals may hold multiple elected offices simultaneously
- Modernizing public notice requirements
- Rules related to council district structures

She also clarified what the charter review cannot do, such as:

- Fixing operational or services issues
- Resolving political disagreements
- Stopping or reversing city projects
- Changing police procedures or state law, etc.

Jennifer encouraged commenters to focus on structural and governance questions, though she welcomes other concerns and offered to route unrelated issues to the appropriate city staff. She concluded by noting that Lisa Syravong would assist with timekeeping for public commenters.

4. PUBLIC HEARING

Each person was asked to limit comments to three (3) minutes. This allowed everyone a fair opportunity to speak.

- Abi Ludwig
 - Initiative Updates
 - Rights for the Snohomish River
- Holly James



- Rights of Nature
 - Office of Neighborhoods
- John Peeples
 - Initiative Threshold
 - Qualifications for Office
- Nathan Shelby
 - City Council Full-Time Positions
- Alice Hedges
 - Candidate Eligibility
 - Update Charter Language
 - Legal Notices - Newspaper
 - Juneteenth Holiday
 - Library Board
 - Outsources City Services
- Christopher Sweet
 - Restrict City Council and Mayor from Outsourcing City Services and Law Enforcement to Non-Governmental 3rd Party Entities Without a Ballot Measure
- Janice Green
 - Election Transparency
 - Election Financing and Vouchers

After the public commenters finished sharing their statements, the Charter Review Committee Members and attendees engaged in in-depth discussions, asking follow-up questions and offering clarification to ensure a fuller understanding of the issues raised. Full discussion can be viewed on the YouTube Channel link provided on the Charter Review Committee’s website.

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting is set for Tuesday, March 31, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Mayor’s Conference Room on the 10th floor at 2930 Wetmore Avenue.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

