



**Minutes of the Special Meeting
of the Board of Commissioners of the
Housing Authority of the City of Everett**

May 24, 2018

Meeting Called to Order

The Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Everett, which was held at the Authority's main office at 3107 Colby Avenue, Everett, Washington, was called to order by Chair Maddy Metzger-Utt at 11:34 a.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2018.

Commissioners Present at Roll Call:

Chair Maddy Metzger-Utt	Commissioner Michele Rastovich
Commissioner John Mierke	Commissioner Allison Warren-Barbour
Commissioner George Perez, Jr.	Commissioner Todd Taylor

Commissioners Absent:

None

Staff:

Ashley Lommers-Johnson, Executive Director
Chris Neblett, Hearing Officer/Administrative Coordinator

Guests:

Lorna Corrigan, Attorney
Bo Tunestam, Housing Chair attending as observer on behalf of NAACP
Snohomish County Branch

Motion to Revise Meeting Agenda

Commissioner Michele Rastovich made a motion to reverse the order of the meeting agenda and convene directly into Executive Session, followed by consideration of agenda item one once the Board reconvened in public session. Commissioner Taylor seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Executive Session

At 11:38 a.m. Chair Metzger-Utt announced the Board would convene in Executive Session, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (i)(ii) and (iii) , to discuss with legal counsel representing the agency potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency, and to discuss the legal risks of a proposed action that the agency has identified when public discussion of the legal risks is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency. Attorney Lorna Corrigan clarified that the statute referenced in the meeting agenda should have been listed as RCW 42.30.110 (i), (ii) and (iii). Chair Metzger-Utt then called for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session for the stated purpose, for a duration of approximately 40 minutes. Commissioner Taylor motioned as stated, Commissioner Warren-Barbour seconded, and the Board convened in Executive Session.

Reconvene Regular Session

At 12:20 p.m. the Board reconvened in regular session, with no action taken in Executive Session. Chair Metzger-Utt requested a motion directing Chair Maddy Metzger-Utt, or if she is unavailable, Vice-Chair George Perez, to seek bids pursuant to the small purchase provisions of Section 5.2 of the EHA Procurement Policy for a contract with an outside personnel consultant to work on special personnel projects for the Housing Authority, with a contract limit of \$50,000, absent further authority from the Board. Commissioner Rastovich moved to approve this action, Commissioner Mierke seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

At his request, Executive Director Lommers-Johnson was given the floor. He expressed dissatisfaction with Board's investigation of complaints against him coming from within the agency, a process he said has extended over three months without regard for transparency or due process. He maintained that the Board's decision to investigate the complaints against him in the manner it had, as well as its failure to respond to his own complaints, amounted to disparate treatment based on race. He said he did not intend to pursue legal action against the agency; rather he advocated for bringing in a neutral party to investigate and mediate a solution, as he felt the current approach was detrimental to the long-term health of the organization.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Metzger Utt called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Commissioner Rastovich and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. The meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George P. ...", is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Vice-Chair, Board of Commissioners" is printed.

Vice-Chair, Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a horizontal line. Below the line, the text "Secretary" is printed.

Secretary