**Councilmember Scott Murphy-Update to NW Neighborhood (1/21/21)**

**Everett Transit-**

The City Council is expecting a briefing from Transit staff next week to hear a report about Public Outreach from the Re-think Transit project. Paratransit is one topic……Ridership is down over 50% since one year ago.

**PFD Update:**

In addition to my role as Budget Chair and NW Neighborhood liaison, I also serve as the Council liaison to The Angel of the Winds Arena (overseen by the Everett Public Facilities District “PFD”) and serve as one of five board members of the PFD.

The facility has been mostly shut down for the past 9 months except for use by the County as a Quarantine Center, and for blood drives and some limited, socially distanced use of the Community Ice Rink. We are hopeful that operations can resume by mid year but that will depend on whether that can be conducted safely.

**2021 Budget process update**

1. 2021 budget adopted by City Council in December.
2. There were a number of changes made by Council to the Mayor’s proposed budget, including:
	1. Pulled some funding out of the proposed Jail budget based on actual jail fees trending far below budget during the pandemic;
	2. Added funding back for Grants from the LTAC fund;
	3. Added some funding back for the Senior Center so it could re-start by mid year;
	4. Added some funding back for the Library
	5. Added some funding back for Cultural Arts and summertime activities (subject to being able to safely conduct those activities based on the pandemic status at that time.

**Police Department Study in 2021**

 Council included $125,000 in our budget to conduct a thorough review of Police department operations. This will include comparison of Everett PD metrics to similar benchmark departments. Should be finished by late 2021.

**Fire Department**

We are currently reviewing changes to the City Fire Code to bring that into compliance with the State Fire code. There will be some local amendments related to protecting public safety and ensuring that our other related ordinances are consolidated into a single location for developers and contractors.

Also, The City Council has approved the City to move forward with further exploration of potentially merging Everett Fire Department into a Regional Fire Authority. We have appointed Mayor Franklin, and Councilmembers Stonecipher and Bader to the Committee.

**Senior Center**

The City has received a proposal from a service provider to potentially take over running of the Senior Center. That is currently under review by the Administration and I expect Council to be briefed within the next several weeks.

**Utility Rates**

Council is currently reviewing a proposal on updated Utility rates for 2021 through 2024. The estimates of needed rate increases provided to us a year ago was approx. 3.5%. The updated rates average 2.65% so that is better news. Expect action to be taken next week.

**Update on LTAC Dollars**

The Lodging Tax Committee met last week and agreed to split the 2021 budget of $200,000 into two rounds of potential grants, the first will be $50,000 for creative events and programs that can promote Everett and assist with Economic Recovery during the pandemic while operating in a safe and responsible socially distanced manner to ensure public safety and health. The LTAC is currently accepting proposals through February 5th, and we will meet again on February 16 to review the proposals received. The second round of grants with the remaining $150,000 will open up later in the year when hopefully we are able to gather and meet in person allowing for more traditional types of programs as we have done in the past.