

# **Whatcom County Council Special Committee of the Whole**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



## **Action Summary**

**Tuesday, June 13, 2023**

**2 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers/Remote**

**HYBRID MEETING - (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Carol Frazey  
Kaylee Galloway  
Kathy Kershner

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

### Announcements

### Committee Discussion

1. [AB2023-304](#) Justice Project workshop

#### **DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Approximate Timestamp: 46:43

Motion approved 6-0-1, with Galloway abstaining, that the Council select LaBounty as the location for our new correctional facility.

Approximate Timestamp: 1:24:31

Motion approved 7-0 that we clearly define the equation that we would use for number of beds that will be proposed initially and what triggers expansion as soon as possible.

Approximate Timestamp: 2:03:11

Motion approved 7-0 that they work off the Administration's document and amend it with the Buchanan/Galloway amendments that we come up with.

Approximate Timestamp: 2:11:43

Motion approved 6-1 with Elenbaas opposed, to amend page six of the "Draft Ordinance 6.13.2023-track changes" to insert the fourth added (blue) whereas statement from the "Galloway/Buchanan Substitute Draft 6.13.2023" version into the same section of whereas statements (to be the third whereas statement on page six) on the Executive's version but amend it so that it reads:

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Whatcom County Council, moving forward, to CONTINUE TO dedicate this 2004 voter approved one-tenth of one percent jail facilities sales and use tax to the construction AND OPERATION of a new jail and behavioral health center; and

Approximate Timestamp: 2:18:48

Motion approved 7-0 to take the additional suggestions from the Buchanan/Galloway version on page one (where they left off from the last motion) through the bottom of page six and put those into the Executive's draft Ordinance.

Approximate Timestamp: 2:49:03

Motion approved 5-1-1, with Elenbaas opposed and Donovan out of the meeting, that they add language to Section 5 (1) (d) of the Administration's version from the second paragraph of Section 3 of the Galloway/Buchanan version so that the Administration's version reads:

d. Allows for cost-effective terms of bonding for the construction of the jail and behavioral health facilities by including a sharing of the first four to six years of sales tax revenue. This up-front revenue will reduce the bond size to ensure that in subsequent years a minimum of 50 % of the ongoing county-wide sales tax revenue will be used for other Implementation Plan priorities, such as the construction and operation of behavioral health facilities serving population outside of the County jail, expansion of incarceration reduction programs, increasing access to community-based behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment services, reentry programs, supportive housing, diversion programs, and accountability measures that monitor progress and inform future planning.

Approximate Timestamp: 3:13:11

Motion approved 5-0-2 with Donovan and Elenbaas out of the meeting to amend the ballot language where we say "housing" that we include the word "SUPPORTIVE" housing so that it would read:

The Whatcom County Council passed Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ concerning funding for public health, safety, and justice facilities and services. If approved, this proposition would authorize a sales and use tax of two-tenths of one percent (20 cents per \$100) for costs associated with behavioral health, supportive housing, public safety, and criminal justice facilities and 11 Draft 5.23.23 EXEC services, as authorized by RCW 82.14.450. Should this proposition be approved?

Approximate Timestamp: 3:14:51

Motion approved 5-1-1, with Elenbaas opposed and Donovan out of the meeting, that the remainder of Buchanan/Galloway recommended amendments (on the second half of page 7, and on pages 8 and 9) be incorporated into the Administration's Ordinance in red when it is introduced so they can continue this work when they see this again to determine if those are going to stick or not.

### **Items Added by Revision**

### **Other Business**

### **Adjournment**