

Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, July 27, 2021
2:40 PM
Virtual Meeting**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS NO LATER THAN 3:40 P.M. (TO PARTICIPATE,
SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL
360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Rud Browne, Ben Elenbaas, and Todd Donovan

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2021-418](#) Discussion of proposed ordinance amending the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Map and zoning code for the Nooksack Falls Exclave within the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest

Josh Fleischmann, Planning and Development Services Department, presented and answered whether this is forest service land and not wilderness land, whether the proposal would allow lodging and a conference facility, and whether that would be in line with the Growth Management Act.

Browne moved to recommend the item for introduction tonight (as scheduled).

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Donovan, and Elenbaas

Nay: 0

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED to recommend for introduction tonight.

2. [AB2021-425](#) Discussion of an ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning to allow and regulate Battery Energy Storage Systems

The following people spoke and answered questions:

- Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department
- Robby Eckroth, Planning and Development Services Department

They answered how big the storage systems are physically, whether the larger ones would probably be co-located with other existing utility facilities, why this has come back to the Council so soon after being

docketed, whether this will go to the Planning Commission, how much of the code amendment was written by staff, and how much was asked for by the applicants.

The following additional people spoke and answered questions and Councilmembers and staff discussed the item:

- Keleigh Wright, Applicant
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
- David Lawlor, Applicant

Donovan moved to recommend the item for introduction tonight (as scheduled).

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Donovan, and Elenbaas

Nay: 0

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED to recommend for introduction tonight.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Councilmembers discussed the starting time of the next committee meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA
Ben Elenbaas-via email 8/10/2021

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE