

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

3:05 PM

Virtual Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 5 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 13:24 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Announcements

Committee Discussion

- [AB2021-395](#) Discussion and periodic update of the Shoreline Management Program

Donovan spoke about whether this item should be discussed in the Natural Resources Committee.

Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department, briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions about the schedule for discussions on particular subjects, and about how to access the Shoreline Environment Designation map (Exhibit G) and a new conservancy designation on the map as defined in Chapter 11 (Exhibit B).

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.
- [AB2021-482](#) Presentation and discussion regarding Whatcom County's proposed American Rescue Plan Act funding priorities

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, briefed the Councilmembers. He and Councilmembers discussed whether there is money for projects they have not thought of yet, waiting until the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force brings their recommendations forward, the timeline going forward and when formal requests would be coming to Council, whether the Regional Water Infrastructure funding should be from the Conservation Futures Fund, money allocated to Blaine infrastructure, reserving the funds for projects in more rural areas that do not have other jurisdictions that can represent them, using American Rescue Plan Act Fund (ARPA) funds to compensate those who lose their job because they choose not to be vaccinated or who suffer adverse events or any effects from the vaccine in order to keep their job, what first Additional Service Requests (ASRs) might be brought to Council, whether AB2021-513 needs to be authorized tonight in order for the Administration to bring the Laurel/Forest request to Council, which ARPA "buckets" that request would come out of and how it is related to childcare, and whether the transfer of property to the

Opportunity Council should be for value or no value.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

3. [AB2021-541](#) Discussion of implementing the 2021 Whatcom County Climate Action Plan
Chris Elder, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers.

He and Ellyn Murphy, Climate Impact Advisory Committee, answered where the position that would be hired to implement the plan would be housed, where the electricity comes from for these initiatives to move toward one hundred percent electrification of buildings, and whether there will be enough electricity to meet the needs.

Elder spoke about the next steps going forward.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2021-209](#) Resolution regarding permanent affordability of childcare in Whatcom County
Frazey answered whether this is something they want to address today before they get a report from the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force.

Judy Ziels, Health Department, requested a deferral of this item to October 12, 2021.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, answered what is needed from the Committee today.

Frazey moved to extend the deadline in the affordability of childcare resolution to October 15. The motion was seconded by Browne.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Frazey, Kershner, Browne Buchanan, Byrd, and Donovan

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Elenbaas

Cathy Halka, Council Legislative Analyst, updated the Councilmembers on the substitute resolution.

This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDED MOTION(S).

2. [AB2021-525](#) Discussion and request for Council motion regarding request for proposals (RFP) for independent review of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Browne briefed the Councilmembers and they discussed the item.

Browne moved to recommend approval of the document titled Substitute Draft Scope for 9.28, listed as attachment #3 on this file in the Legislative Information Center. The motion was seconded by Kershner.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Frazey, Kershner, Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, and Elenbaas,

Nay: 0

This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDED MOTION(S).

- 3. [AB2021-528](#) Resolution approving the Water District 13 Small Water System Management Plan

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, briefed the Councilmembers.

Byrd moved and Frazey seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on October 12, 2021.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE