

Whatcom County Council (Special)

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE

Monday, November 2, 2020

2:15 PM

Virtual Meeting

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 2:19 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey and Ben Elenbaas

Absent: 1 - Kathy Kershner

Discussion and Possible Action

1. [AB2020-468](#) Discussion of utilizing Cares Act funding to assist Whatcom County Water Districts
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, updated the Councilmembers on the following:

- The County's security preparedness for Election Day
- Preparation for a second wave of COVID-19 and limited vaccine availability
- The impending end of CARES Act dollars and no security that there will be further funding
- A discussion with the owners of the Byron Avenue isolation and quarantine facility, potential ways it might be used, and when the lease with them expires
- Looking for innovative solutions for severe weather shelters

Byrd updated the Councilmembers on the agenda item.

The following people discussed with Councilmembers and answered questions:

- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
- Karen Frakes, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed whether the water associations could be included if either the Public Utility District (PUD) or Port of Bellingham was able to administer the program, whether it would help the County Administration if another organization agreed to administer the work, waiting for new stimulus money as opposed to doing this now, whether the County would sign a sub-agency agreement if applications could be received in time, whether it would be a problem if the program

helped some water users but not others, whether implementation of the program could be done by the Council, the deadline for submitting qualified CARES Act expenses to the State, how this would relate to the Business Assistance Grant which used CARES Act funds, creating a good application verification process, and taking time to create a program that would go into the future and that would also include water associations.

Byrd moved that the Council approve an appropriation of \$400,00 of CARES Act funding for this program and that they reimburse the subrecipients if they are able to get their requests in by the 20th of November. The motion was seconded by Elenbaas.

Councilmembers and Sidhu discussed the motion and having a two-level review of the subrecipients, including the water associations, whether it might qualify as an emergency Ordinance, and the review process.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Byrd and Elenbaas

Nay: 3 - Browne, Buchanan, and Frazey

Abstain: 1 - Donovan

Absent: 1 - Kershner

Buchanan moved to move forward with putting together a program that is more inclusive for all the utility users including the water associations and have it ready to go for when we do get additional stimulus dollars. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 1 - Kershner

Councilmembers and Sidhu briefly discussed the next steps.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Councilmembers and Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, discussed upcoming meetings.

Browne spoke about staff resources needed to help with implementing a

potential program.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription