

Whatcom County Council (Special)

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021
12 PM
Virtual Meeting**

**VIRTUAL MEETING (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 12:02 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

Announcements**Special Order of Business**

1. [AB2021-700](#) Ordinance (emergency) amending the 2021 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 19, in the amount of \$250,000 to cover emergency response costs related to countywide flooding

The following people reported on misinformation regarding Sumas that circulated overnight and the current status of the flood situation in the county:

- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
- John Gargett, Division of Emergency Management
- Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department Director

They answered whether there is a phone number for people to call who would like to donate heavy equipment or help farmers with things like feeding cattle.

Donovan moved and Browne seconded that the Ordinance be adopted.

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed whether \$250,000 will be enough, how high this flood was compared to others in the last 100 years, the fact that the Flood Control Zone District has budget authority for emergency response and this is in addition to that, the fact that this money is just the lead-in to the recovery effort, a perception in the community and on social media that the County is not doing all that it could to respond to the flood event, whether the County could help with funds for non-profits who are out there helping people, whether the County has reached out to the State or the National Guard to help coordinate, whether the Council should put out communication to help raise money for the community, public perception about government's response to the crisis, whether a page could be set up on the County's website listing the things that the County is doing

for the flood response, whether a Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected (MRAP) vehicle has been used for rescue, and whether Councilmembers should share on social media what good things the County is doing.

Councilmembers voted on the ordinance (See vote and ordinance number below at the end of the discussion) and the Ordinance was adopted.

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed how to best get information to the public, directing people to organizations who are already helping, encouraging people to sign up for County email lists and alerts, and donations that have already come in.

Donovan's motion that the Ordinance be ADOPTED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2021-071

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription