

**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, February 8, 2022**

**1 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

VIRTUAL MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2 P.M. (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL 360.778.5010)

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

**Absent:** None

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

## **Announcements**

## **Committee Discussion**

1. [AB2022-084](#) Discussion of an ordinance adopting various minor amendments to Whatcom County Code Titles 20 (Zoning), 21 (Land Division Regulations) and 22 (Land Use and Development)

The following staff briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions:

- Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department
- Amy Keenan, Planning and Development Services Department

They answered questions about the proposed amendments in Exhibit A including amendment five (Standardizing Kennel Language) and amendment three (Rural Forestry Lot Coverage) which would be a policy change.

Strong stated they added one more potential change to this Ordinance. There are other uses of the word marijuana in the Code, and if Councilmembers choose to change “marijuana” to “cannabis” as proposed in Councilmember Galloway's substitute Ordinance (AB2021-648) he has listed other areas in the Code where that language would also need to be changed. He has prepared a substitute Ordinance for this item (AB2022-082) if Galloway’s substitute Ordinance is adopted tonight.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, answered whether that substitute will be online.

Strong answered and Councilmembers discussed why the Ordinance adopting amendments to WCC Title 20 (Zoning) regulating the production, processing, and retail sales of recreational marijuana in Whatcom County and repealing Ordinance No. 2021-066 is not on the agenda in Committee

for a work session today.

Galloway asked about where the Ordinance related to this discussion is on the agenda tonight and Councilmembers and staff discussed whether a motion is needed from Committee.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

2. [AB2021-605](#) Discussion on proposed amendments to the Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning) to provide additional affordable housing options

Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department, updated the Councilmembers.

***Donovan moved*** that they recommend this to the full Council.

Councilmembers and Staff discussed whether the item is on the agenda tonight, the motion, and an update on a conversation with the pro-tiny-home group. The thought is that it would be best to go forward with this and fix things as the State changes things afterwards.

Curtis Metz, Planning and Development Services Department, stated he reviewed the websites of other counties regarding tiny homes. He did not see anything outstanding that would justify something totally different from what staff has already proposed.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the process for the related Ordinance to proceed and whether it has had a public hearing, and they discussed the motion.

***Donovan amended*** his motion and ***moved*** to recommend that the related Ordinance (AB2022-606) be introduced tonight.

The motion carried by the following vote:  
**Aye:** 3 - Donovan, Galloway, and Elenbaas  
**Nay:** 0

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

### **Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

### **Other Business**

Councilmembers discussed whether they could further discuss the

proposed Ordinance regarding marijuana.

Brown-Davis spoke about getting more direction from Councilmembers regarding the topic of vacation rentals.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Ben Elenbaas-via email 2/11/2022**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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