

**Whatcom County
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, May 10, 2022
11 AM
Hybrid Meeting**

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 1 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON OR SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR
CALL 360.778.5010)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Tyler Byrd
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Tyler Byrd called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. [AB2022-226](#) Presentation from the Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence
Susan Marks, Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence, presented and answered what percent of survivor defendants are male and what percentage are female.

Frazey spoke about the importance of stabilizing funding for the Commission and Councilmembers thanked Marks for the presentation and her work in the community.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

2. [AB2022-267](#) Report from the Human Resources Division
Melissa Keeley, Administrative Services Department Human Resources (HR), reported on HR and County staffing, training and staff development, Collective Bargaining, a current formal compensation study for unrepresented employees, and new technology tools (DocuSign, JD Edwards, and NEOGOV recruitment software).

She answered when the implicit biased training will be implemented, whether the County is doing anything intentional other than the NEOGOV software to make sure we have a diverse pool of job applicants, the biggest constraint the County runs into regarding hiring or recruiting new team members, whether the amount the County pays engineers is competitive with the rest of the community, whether she is familiar with a specific clause written into the City of Bellingham's bargaining agreement pertaining to emergency management and assigning a second duty to employees that correlates to the level of their position, and whether there are any other jurisdictions that are doing that.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered whether they get much feedback regarding staff who are wanting the County to open a café in the Courthouse, where employees should go with such a request, and some of the issues involved in having a café in the Courthouse. He will follow up with Council via email.

This agenda item was REPORTED.

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2022-279](#) Discussion of proposed investment of a portion of ARPA funds towards early learning and child care in Whatcom County

Judy Ziels, Health Department, briefed the Councilmembers and she and the following people answered questions:

- David Webster, Opportunity Council
- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office

They discussed with Councilmembers whether grant funding through the Opportunity Council will be distributed with a contract that has Whatcom County's standard language on non-discrimination for the main contract and subcontract, whether that language would rule out religious organizations, whether there is a request for more money on top of the \$1 million previously approved and outside of what would be covered in the proposed ballot initiative, whether the County is providing supplemental funding to Bellingham for childcare, how many slots this would create for kids, bringing more childcare capacity to the smaller communities, getting clarity on the County's intention with the non-discrimination clause in its contract, whether stabilization grants issued to childcare operators throughout Whatcom County (as referenced under immediate action number 1 on page 4 of the ARPA Funding Proposal on file) would be used to pay salaries of childcare workers, how long those dollars will last and those paychecks be supplemented, whether the proposal to provide grants to 75 percent of total licensed childcare operators in Whatcom County means we have 25 percent of providers who are pretty stable, whether the number of 75 percent is a researched figure or just an estimate, and whether the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force is looking at what providers that are not going to apply and are doing well are doing.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

Byrd asked if there were any Consent Agenda items Committee members

would like to vote on separately but there were none.

Frazezy moved to approve Consent Agenda items one through seven.

Paula Harris, Public Works Department, answered questions about Consent Agenda item number four (AB2022-265). She answered whether they are incorporating climate change and climate change considerations into the work of flood mitigation and planning, whether all of the landowners of land they are looking to acquire have been reached out to and know this is happening, and whether landowners of key properties should be made aware.

Councilmembers voted on all the Consent Agenda items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2022-236](#) Resolution to set hearing and notice of hearing to declare Whatcom County real property as surplus

**Frazezy moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazezy, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2022-237](#) Resolution to set hearing and notice of hearing to authorize the transfer of Whatcom County surplus property

**Frazezy moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.
The motion carried by the following vote:**

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazezy, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2022-253](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Commerce to provide resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic among individuals and families who are homeless or receiving homeless assistance, in the amount of \$1,250,000 for a total amended amount of \$4,294,770

**Frazezy moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR
AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following
vote:**

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazezy, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2022-265](#) Request permission for the County Executive to enter into a Shorelands Floodplain by Design Agreement with the State of Washington Department of Ecology (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Frazezy moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2022-272](#) Resolution authorizing the Whatcom County Executive to act as the authorized representative on behalf of Whatcom County for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration Grant

Frazezy moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2022-273](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Parametrix, Inc, in the amount of \$55,523.27 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Frazezy moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2022-277](#) Request authorization for the Executive to enter into a FEMA Public Assistance grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for disaster relief and emergency assistance

Frazezy moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, 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 12:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Tyler Byrd-via email 5/11/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Tyler Byrd, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE