

**Whatcom County
Council Planning and Development Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Final

VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS NO LATER THAN 3:40 P.M. (TO
PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010)
Tuesday, May 18, 2021

2:40 PM

Virtual Meeting

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 2:42 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Rollcall

Present: 3 - Rud Browne, Ben Elenbaas and Todd Donovan

Absent: None

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

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2021-252](#) Resolution approving recommendations on eight applications for Open Space Current Use Assessment

Joshua Fleischmann, Planning and Development Services Department, gave a presentation and answered questions on individual properties, how long it takes to get this many applications, whether wetlands are protected from development automatically, public access, how many acres are currently in the open space program, how much taxes have been shifted to the rest of the population as a result of the program, whether the ordinance would have to be amended if the Council just approves properties that both staff and the Planning Commission said yes to, reasons for denials, the farm and agricultural subclassification of open space lands, whether applicants asked for a change voluntarily, and the threshold or dollar amount one has to generate to qualify for the farm and agricultural open space classification.

Donovan moved to recommend to the full Council that they accept the five properties that have favorable recommendations from both staff and the Planning Commission. The motion was seconded by Browne.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the motion and getting more information on the remaining parcels.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Donovan, and Elenbaas

Nay: 0

Councilmembers discussed the resolution and what to do with the property on 5643 Market Road which was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission but not by staff.

Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director, spoke about amending the Resolution.

Donovan moved to recommend that the Resolution be amended to reflect the intent of his earlier motion as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL: 1. The recommendations on the applications for open space current use assessment listed below are hereby approved: with the exceptions of OSP2019-00002, OSP2019-00003, and OSP2019-00006.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Donovan, and Elenbaas

Nay: 0

Councilmembers and staff continued to discuss the Resolution and whether they should have a discussion with staff about revisiting the threshold that triggers the requirement to make revenue versus not make revenue.

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

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Ben Elenbaas-via email 5/27/2021

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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