

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SUPPORTING THE EXECUTIVE'S BUDGET GOALS FOR 2021-22

WHEREAS, Section 2.20 of the Whatcom County Charter gives the County Council the power to levy taxes, appropriate revenue, and adopt budgets for the County; and

WHEREAS, Section 3.22 of the Whatcom County Charter gives the Executive the power and duty to prepare and present budgets to the County Council; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.20 of the Whatcom County Charter requires all agencies of County government to submit to the County Executive information necessary to prepare the budget at least one hundred thirty-five (135) days prior to the end of the budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.10 of the Whatcom County Charter requires the County Executive to present a complete budget and budget message to the County Council at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the end of each budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, Section 6.10 of the Whatcom County Charter requires that the County Council shall adopt appropriation, tax and revenue ordinances for the next budget cycle at least thirty (30) days prior to the end of the budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, the Executive intends to present Budget recommendations to County Council in October 2020; and

WHEREAS, given these deadlines enshrined in the County Charter, Council has somewhat limited time to amend budgets after October 2020; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2020, the Executive provided Council his 2021-2022 Administrative Budget Priorities, listing the Executive's overarching goals for the 2021-22 budget cycle, and asked Council for its feedback; and

WHEREAS, the budget process may be more efficient if the Council informs the Executive about Council's agreement with the Executive's overarching goals for the 2021-22 budget cycle prior to releasing budget instructions to agencies of County government, and prior to the Executive making final budget decisions in September of 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Council supports the Executive's following overarching goals for the 2021-22 budget cycle:

- Take prudent steps to safeguard the long-term financial stability of County finances.
- Maintain a reasonable level of service to provide the best possible services to our constituents by maintaining County workforce teams.

- Maintain County assets and seek opportunities to improve operational efficiencies of overall County operations.
- Continue to support our Public Health system as we respond to the COVID 19 pandemic.
- Continue to support the Regional Economic Partnership (ADO office) Economic Development programs.
- Develop reasonable Capital Project Budgets for the long-term needs of Whatcom County.
- Continue Countywide initiatives to improve Housing Affordability, Wetlands Mitigation strategy, and Climate Change Mitigation.
- Facilitate WIRA 1 policy and planning for all stakeholders.
- Prepare an addendum for the General Fund, and other funds reliant on the General Fund transfers, that includes a prioritized targeted list of cost reduction proposals totaling 20% of the unrestricted revenue
- Prioritized available funding for the benefit of children and families

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council has additional goals and priorities that it will also be sent to the Executive.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor