

**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

ESTIMATED TIME - MEETING MAY BEGIN EARLIER/LATER THAN 11 A.M.

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

11 AM

Council Chambers

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Tyler Byrd
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Tyler Bird called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Also present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Carol Frazey

County Executive's Report

There was no Executive Report.

Special Order of Business

1. [AB2020-030](#) Confirm Committee Chair Selection

Kershner moved that the selection of Tyler Byrd as Chair be CONFIRMED.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Special Presentation

1. [AB2019-533](#) Update on economic development activities by the Regional Economic Development Partnership

Since the meeting started earlier than 11 a.m., the Committee members concurred that they would like to hold this first item to the end of the meeting because the presenters were not yet present.

Clerk's note: See final action taken on this item below, after Council "Consent Agenda."

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2020-020](#) Ordinance amending the 2020 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$1,586,506

Browne moved that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2020-003](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Skagit County for mutual assistance on minor road projects with labor, equipment, or materials on a reimbursable basis for road maintenance activities through January 31, 2024

Browne moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2020-034](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Skagit County for Mini-Chain Services in the amount of \$153,411.00

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, explained the process of mini-chain services.

Cathy Halka, Council Office, clarified that there is no need for a second to motions made in committee proceedings.

Kershner moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2020-035](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Oak Harbor for Mini-Chain Services in the amount of \$1,845.00

Kershner moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2020-036](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Marysville for Mini-Chain Services in the amount of \$37,006.00

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, answered a question about why this city requests more money than the other cities.

Kershner moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2020-050](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Island County for Mini-Chain Services in the amount of \$4,626.00

Kershner moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2020-053](#) Request approval of the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board's recommendation for funding of the City of Lynden's request for a loan in the amount of \$2,000,000 and a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000

Kershner moved that the request be recommended for authorization.

Councilmembers discussed the request, whether the childcare crisis in Whatcom County should take priority for the use of public funds, and whether private development is the best use of Economic Development Investment (EDI) funds.

Kershner moved to hold till later in the meeting.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Kershner, Byrd, and Browne

Nay: 0 - None

Clerk's note: See final action taken on this item below, after Council "Consent Agenda."

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2020-039](#) Request approval to sign agreement with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation grant program to provide matching funds for the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the McLeod property through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2020-040](#) Request approval to sign agreement with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation grant program to provide matching funds for the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the Roper property through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2020-041](#) Request approval to sign agreement with Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Farmland Preservation grant program to provide matching funds for the acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement on the TeVelde property through the Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2020-043](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Max Higbee Center to support critical construction improvements at their newly leased location, in the amount of \$100,000
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, and Tyler Schroeder Executive's Office, answered questions and Councilmembers discussed how millage funds are collected, what they are and how they are used, whether funding this item with millage funds means that \$100,000 would be cut from other programs or services, and whether the facility to be funded is a different one from the one that already exists or an addition to it.

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2020-044](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Northwest Youth Services to support operations at the Ground Floor Day-Use Center, in the amount of \$125,000

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, and Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, answered whether this is the same as the money previously approved for Northwest Youth Services.

Councilmembers also discussed fund transparency and whether the Administration could provide visibility or notification to the Council about whether one program will lose funding when another gets approved by the Council (especially if it was funding they had previously approved) and how this might fit in to the budget and contract process.

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

6. [AB2020-045](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining

Agreement between Whatcom County and the Fraternal Order of Police, Matt Herzog Memorial Lodge #24 representing Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Management Group

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

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2020-055](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK) to develop a Whatcom County Public Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Needs Assessment, in the amount of \$629,694

Browne moved that the Contract be authorized by consent.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, submitted a handout (on file), briefed the Councilmembers, introduced two presenters, and answered questions about when the New Jail Fund got renamed to the New Health, Safety, and Justice Facility Project Fund.

Buchanan stated he is not related and has no connection to Todd Buchanan from Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK).

Jeff Bradley, representative from Hellmuth, Obata, and Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK), presented. He answered questions about the top three things his firm would do differently from its competitors to work toward reducing incarceration and recidivism, giving the Council examples of elements in other jurisdictions that they would like to incorporate in Whatcom County, how they would address Whatcom County's need to find a plan that its voters will approve, whether their statistics are based on concrete as opposed to theoretical data, and providing that data to the Council.

Schroeder, Bradley, and Councilmembers discussed bringing past examples of facilities that have incorporated the communities' wishes as it relates to behavioral health and alternatives, holding the item in Committee to get more information from HOK, how scheduling more meeting time might affect the project timeline, receiving examples of other facilities that are either heavy or light on treatment for mental health and substance abuse, addressing the pros and cons of different designs and locations in Whatcom County, and looking at target audiences and strategies of community

engagement.

Browne withdrew his motion to authorize by consent.

Browne moved that the Contract be HELD AND REFERRED TO COMMITTEE. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Byrd and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

1. [AB2019-533](#) Update on economic development activities by the Regional Economic Development Partnership

Don Goldberg, Port of Bellingham, submitted and gave a presentation (on file) on what the Regional Economic Development Partnership accomplished in 2019 and what they hope to accomplish in the coming year. He answered questions about whether the Geographic Information System (GIS) map, which shows where utilities are on industrial properties up the I-5 corridor, could be made public and whether shapefiles can be posted on the Port of Bellingham's website; providing a count of new jobs and the trend of average salaries in the county; and whether the Council could get access to the studies done by the partnership regarding rural broadband, the I-5 corridor, and the viability of a business park at Cherry Point.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

7. [AB2020-053](#) Request approval of the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board's recommendation for funding of the City of Lynden's request for a loan in the amount of \$2,000,000 and a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000

Scott Korthuis, City of Lynden Mayor, submitted and gave a presentation (on file) and the following people spoke:

Don Korthuis, area property owner and developer

Steve Banham, City of Lynden Public Works Department

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office

Councilmembers discussed and the speakers answered questions about how Lynden Door would benefit from the West Front Street project, how many companies have signed a lease for the business park, the value of each acre of land once developed, the number of acres to be developed, the use of the Economic Development Investment Board EDI funds and whether they would be better used to fund the recent childcare crisis, why the developer is not paying for the project, whether the City of Lynden has a "plan B" if the

funding does not get approved, whether the City has looked for other funding, whether the streets on the impact fee-funded street map (in the presentation) are funded without EDI money, how impact fees paid by the developer are used, whether the request could be made for just a loan as opposed to a grant and a loan, other projects that EDI money has funded, the relationship between the Mayor and the land developer, and possible ways to structure a loan and then bring the request back to the Council.

Kershner's earlier motion that the Special Executive Only Item be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL failed by the following vote:

Aye: 1 - Kershner

Nay: 2 - Browne and Byrd

Absent: 0

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Tyler Byrd, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE