

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

COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
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**Committee Minutes - Final**

VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS NO LATER THAN NOON (TO  
PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL 360.778.5010)  
**Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

**10 AM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Rud Browne  
Tyler Byrd  
Carol Frazey

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## **Call To Order**

Committee Chair Rud Browne called the meeting to order at 10:13 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

## **Roll Call**

**Present:** 3 - Rud Browne, Tyler Byrd and Carol Frazey

**Absent:** None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kathy Kershner

## **Announcements**

### **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2021-294](#) Report from the Finance Division

Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department, reported and answered where to find the quarterly report online and how opening the Canadian border will affect sales tax revenue.

**This agenda item was REPORTED.**

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2021-307](#) Ordinance amending the 2021 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 9, in the amount of \$1,138,322

*Frazey moved* that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, briefed the Councilmembers.

He and the following people answered questions:

- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
- Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department

They answered questions about the Superior Court County Clerk position, using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds as opposed to the General Fund, how the spending can be reported to or approved by the Council, and whether the County needs the funds at all.

**Frazey's motion that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 2 - Browne, and Frazey

**Nay:** 1 - Byrd

**Absent:** 0

2. [AB2021-310](#) Ordinance establishing the American Rescue Plan Act Fund and establishing a budget for the American Rescue Plan Act Fund

**Frazey moved** that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

Browne stated the version he is asking for a vote on is the substitute as introduced on June 1, 2021 and he described how it is different than the original version.

**Frazey's motion that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

4. [AB2021-330](#) County Executive requests approval of the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board's recommendations for funding to support three project applications from the City of Lynden, Port of Bellingham, and Bellingham Housing Authority

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, asked about the agenda order and whether AB2021-324 was skipped so Browne went back to that item (see action on this item below) to stay in the order of the agenda.

3. [AB2021-324](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into Local Agency Agreement Supplement No. 4 between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation for the Birch Bay Drive and Pedestrian Facility Project in the amount of \$1,100,000

**Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

4. [AB2021-330](#) County Executive requests approval of the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board's recommendations for funding to support three project applications from the City of Lynden, Port of Bellingham, and Bellingham Housing Authority

**Browne moved** that the request be approved in order to discuss the item.

*Clerk's note:* Councilmembers discussed the three applications separately

and proposed motions as amendments to the motion to approve.

Port of Bellingham

The following people briefed the Councilmembers:

- Don Goldberg, Port of Bellingham
- Gina Stark, Port of Bellingham
- Bob Warshawer, Former CEO of Black Rock Cable

The speakers answered what would be different this time than past times of laying down fiber, whether American Rescue Plan Act funding could be used, whether there are examples of a backbone that has been built in other counties or elsewhere that is working for rural communities, why they are not using the twenty miles of fiber that has already been paid for, whether they have looked into Starlink internet service, and the economics of providing fiber to the home as opposed to using other technology.

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, stated the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board considered this application and recommended approval of a grant in the amount of \$2 million to be used as matching funds to leverage the additional Federal and State dollars.

The speakers answered how much money the Port of Bellingham (the Port) needs today to secure the State and Federal funding and the deadline to apply for this grant, whether the cost of the proposed infrastructure would go to the consumer, the cost of fiber per home versus the cost per mile, and whether the long-term plan is for the Port to secure funds to cover costs for homeowners.

***Browne moved*** to hold this for two weeks so the applicants can come back with examples of how the last mile is actually going to be delivered, who the carrier is going to be for the last mile, what the technology is going to be and examples that give at least street level detail if not street number detail, what the plan and cost is to hook onto the existing dark fiber that we've had for the last eight years, and what we are doing to provide connectivity to the infrastructure we already have before we build more infrastructure (more backbone). The motion was seconded by Byrd.

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed the motion and that the motion was supposed to be that the Council give permission to the Port to go for the Community Revitalization Board (CERB) grant and commit to matching

funds if the Port is successful in securing the grant.

**Browne amended** his motion to support the Port making the application for the grant but that the commitment on behalf of the Council should be dependent on us understanding how the last mile is going to be delivered, what the technology is going to be, and what the cost is going to be.

Councilmembers discussed the motion with the speakers and the following additional people spoke:

- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Goldberg stated they are asking for a letter of commitment to the CERB Board that the County will match \$2 million for the Port's application for a \$2 million CERB grant so the Port can get the grant application in.

**Video Timestamp: 01:33:47**

**Browne withdrew** his motion **and moved** that the Council does not approve the ask for \$6 million, they do approve the letter, but accepting the grant funding is going to be subject to a future satisfactory explanation as to how they are actually going to deliver the last mile.

**Browne restated** his motion **and moved** that the Council reject the request as written for \$6 million, they approve the letter of support for \$2 million, but they do not accept the grant unless the Council has received a satisfactory explanation as to how the last mile is going to be delivered.

Councilmembers and Sidhu discussed the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Browne

Nay: 0

**Video Timestamp: 01:37:21**

Bellingham Housing Authority

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, briefed the Councilmembers.

Councilmembers discussed changing the general EDI application.

Browne took a vote on approval of the Bellingham Housing Authority

request.

The vote to approve carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 2 - Frazey and Browne

**Nay:** 1 - Byrd

**Video Timestamp:** 01:40:50

City of Lynden

The following people briefed the Councilmembers and discussed with them the City of Lynden application:

- Mike Martin, City of Lynden City Administrator
- Steve Banham, City of Lynden Public Works Department Director
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

They discussed the project, how much EDI funding the City of Lynden has received compared to the other cities, whether the request is the best use of EDI funds, and whether American Rescue Plan Act funds could be used for this project.

***Browne moved*** to approve a \$2 million loan to the City of Lynden as opposed to a \$1.3 million loan and a \$600,000 grant.

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed the motion.

***Browne amended*** his motion ***and moved*** that they hold this for two weeks with a proposal that it is a loan and let the City of Lynden think about it and get back to the Council.

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed the amended motion.

***Byrd suggested*** a friendly amendment that they not wait for two weeks and that the committee recommend to the Council an alternative of \$2 million of loan funding (Browne's original motion) to be voted on tonight.

***Browne accepted*** the friendly amendment and withdrew his amended motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 2 - Byrd and Browne

**Nay:** 1 - Frazey

Councilmembers, Schroeder and Sidhu discussed the Bellingham Housing Authority Proposal funding and the use of H81406 dollars and scheduling a discussion on this project at the June 29th meeting.

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

5. [AB2021-331](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award bid #21-26 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Tiger Construction LTD for the Plantation Indoor Range HVAC and Roof Replacement, in the amount of \$1,032,352.54

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

**Aye:** 2 - Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Browne

### **Council "Consent Agenda" Items**

1. [AB2021-319](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Arc of Whatcom County to provide information, education, and family support to individuals with developmental disabilities, their family members, and the general public, in the amount of \$150,616

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

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

2. [AB2021-321](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the County Road Administrative Board (CRAB) in order to receive Rural Arterial Preservation grant funding for the Hampton Road Pavement Rehabilitation project in the amount of \$170,100

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

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

3. [AB2021-322](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Executive Office of the President for a grant award for funding from the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) program in the amount of \$205,073.00

***Browne moved*** that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT.

Vanessa Martin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions.

**Browne's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

4. [AB2021-325](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide funding for Child Development Services to eligible children ages birth to three who have developmental disabilities and delays, in the estimated amount of \$77,812, for a total estimated amended contract amount of \$213,952

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

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

5. [AB2021-332](#) Resolution to amend Resolution 2020-046 for unrepresented Whatcom County employees

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

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0



**Absent:** 0

6. [AB2021-333](#) Request authorization for a Letter of Understanding between Whatcom County and General Teamsters' Local Union 231 to amend the Master Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2021

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

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

7. [AB2021-335](#) Request authorization for a Letter of Understanding between Whatcom County and the WA State Nurses Association to amend the collective bargaining agreement for the period January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022

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

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

8. [AB2021-336](#) Request authorization for a Letter of Understanding between Whatcom County and PROTEC17 to amend the collective bargaining agreement for the period January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2021

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

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 0

9. [AB2021-337](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Northwest Educational Services District 189 to provide behavioral health services, in the amount of \$121,000

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

**vote:**

**Aye:** 3 - Browne, Byrd, and Frazey

**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 12:32 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Rud Browne-via email 6/17/2021**

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

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Rud Browne, Committee Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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