

Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

2:45 PM

Hybrid Meeting

HYBRID MEETING – ADJOURNS BY 3:20 P.M. PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE EXPERIENCING INTERMITTENT DIFFICULTIES WITH OUR MEETING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO VIEW VIA THE "IN-PROGRESS" LINK, SEE ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS AT whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil.

COUNCILMEMBERS

Todd Donovan

Ben Elenbaas

Kaylee Galloway

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Absent: None

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2021-425](#) Discussion of an ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, to allow and regulate Battery Energy Storage Systems

The following people presented:

- Robby Eckroth, Planning and Development Services Department
- Ufuoma Ojumah, NextEra Energy
- David Lawler, NextEra Energy

They answered questions about how this code proposal is different from the one the Council had before, whether these systems can be put underground since they are ugly, how big a five megawatt system is, how many of these types of facilities we would need to have to provide the back-up power for a storm or the sun going down, whether one block of five megawatts or less could go anywhere in the county as long as it complies with certain rules, how many residences five megawatts can serve, whether the storage facilities will be used for consumer energy generation use or whether they do the arbitrage where they are storing energy at night at a lower cost and reselling it back to the same network during the day, whether they are selling power directly to the consumer, whether the structures can be any size but still have a 20 percent footprint, whether these are being built in other communities in the state of Washington, and whether their regulations look similar to ours.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Ben Elenbaas-via email 6/14/2022

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE