

Whatcom County Council (Special)

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



Minutes - Final

Wednesday, December 22, 2021

1 PM

Virtual Meeting

**VIRTUAL MEETING (TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA
REVISED 12.20.2021**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kathy Kershner

Absent: 2 - Rud Browne, and Carol Frazey

Announcements**Council Action**

1. [AB2022-005](#) Resolution certifying Whatcom County's property tax levies for collection in 2022 to the County Assessor

Byrd moved and Kershner seconded that the Resolution be APPROVED.

Rebecca Xczar, County Assessor, answered questions about the property tax levies to be certified by this resolution.

Byrd's motion that the Resolution be APPROVED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 2 - Browne, and Frazey

Enactment No: RES 2021-061

2. [AB2022-007](#) Consideration of the Council's process for filling vacant 42nd Legislative District Senate position

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, briefed the Councilmembers on the process that was followed in the past and answered questions about that process.

Buchanan outlined the following proposed timeline:

- Councilmembers would receive candidate names from the Republican Party by the end of this week
- Councilmembers would do their own question and answer with the candidates
- Councilmembers would reconvene on January 4, 2022 to make an appointment

Brown-Davis answered whether the names need to be received before scheduling a meeting so that they would be included in the meeting notice.

Councilmembers discussed a meeting date, setting a cut-off date for receiving the names, and whether Councilmembers could individually reach out to the candidates as opposed to having a formal questionnaire.

Elenbaas moved that they follow Councilmember Buchanan's timeline that he spoke with the Republican Chair about: meeting on January 4th and having them have their names to the Councilmembers by the end of this week. The motion was seconded by Kershner.

Kershner suggested that they take out the date for the candidate names to be given to the Council and that the motion just include the meeting date.

Elenbaas amended his motion **and moved** to meet on January 4, 2022 to make their decision.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and allowing Councilmember-Elect Kaylee Galloway to join the conversation.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Donovan

Absent: 2 - Browne and Frazey

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, requested that the Council approve a Resolution concerning the passing of Senator Doug Ericksen and that they send a letter to the Senator's wife and kids.

Buchanan shared an update from the Republican Party Chair and stated that the Republican Party is planning to wait at least until after Senator Ericksen's memorial next Wednesday, December 29.

Councilmembers discussed the timeline, the idea of not having a formal questionnaire but having the Councilmembers reach out individually to the candidates, and whether the process is being rushed.

Clerks note: Donovan left the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Councilmembers continued to discuss the timeline and Brown-Davis suggested that they set the meeting for January 4th with flexibility that the

meeting date may change if necessary.

Kershner stated she would be willing to work on a letter to the Ericksen family and Buchanan stated he would work on it with her. Councilmembers discussed the letter and whether they could all sign it.

Byrd moved that the Councilmembers set a date of no later than Friday, December 31, 2021 to get candidate names and if the Party does not have the names to Councilmembers by then, they will use the January 4th meeting to discuss when the next meeting would need to be.

Buchanan suggested that they instead cancel the January fourth meeting if the names do not come in by the 31st of December. ***Byrd accepted*** the friendly amendment.

Brown-Davis asked if she should send out the list of questions that were used last time.

Councilmembers discussed a timeline for writing the letter and Buchanan seconded Byrd's motion.

The motion to set a deadline of no later than Friday, December 31, 2021 to get candidate names carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Byrd, Elenbaas, Kershner, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

Absent: 3 - Browne, Donovan, and Frazey

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Elenbaas welcomed Councilmember-Elect Kaylee Galloway.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on January 11, 2022.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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