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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Special Committee of the Whole

June 4, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Vice-Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ROLL CALL

Present: Barbara Brenner, Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey, and Satpal Sidhu.
Absent: None.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

1. AB2019-293 DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED RATE STRUCTURE FOR LAKE WHATCOM STORMWATER UTILITY

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, submitted and read from a presentation (*on file*) and answered questions.

The following Public Works Department staff answered questions:

- Kraig Olason
- Ingrid Enschede

Donovan moved to recommend adoption as presented.

The motion was seconded.

Brenner moved to amend to use a formula where people who are creating any runoff pay a fee, and people who don't create runoff don't pay anything.

The motion to amend was seconded.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the appropriate fee structure, creating incentives to reduce impervious surfaces, alternate fee structures discussed by the advisory committee, comparison with City of Bellingham stormwater charges, expanding the number of fee categories, allowing people to self-report their amount of impervious surface, finding a correlation between the home footprint size and the amount of impervious surface, and the additional cost of administrating more fee categories.

Byrd suggested a friendly amendment to amend the motion to expand the number of fee thresholds to 2,000 or less; 2,001 to 4,000; 4,001 to 6,000; and 6,001 to 8,000; and 8,000 or more square feet of impervious surface.

Brenner accepted the friendly amendment.

Donovan moved to call the question.

1
2 The motion was seconded.
3

4 The motion to call the question carried by the following vote:

5 **Ayes:** Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (4)

6 **Nays:** Brenner, Byrd, and Browne (3)
7

8 **Brenner restated the motion** to amend to expand the number of fee thresholds to
9 2,000 or less; 2,001 to 4,000; 4,001 to 6,000; and 6,001 to 8,000; and 8,000 or more
10 square feet of impervious surface; and is based on what is done on the property to offset
11 the fee.
12

13 The motion to amend failed by the following vote:

14 **Ayes:** Brenner and Byrd (2)

15 **Nays:** Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (5)
16

17 Councilmembers and staff continued to discuss the timeline for adopting the
18 ordinance, the homeowner incentive program (HIP), affordable housing and the capital
19 facilities charge, the inflation adjustment, and the reserve amounts.
20

21 Byrd moved to remove the HIP program from the budget that they are raising money
22 for, and instead allow homeowners to make improvements via a zero interest loan that they
23 would repay. The motion was not seconded.
24

25 **Byrd moved** to remove the capital facilities charge.
26

27 The motion was seconded.
28

29 The motion failed by the following vote:

30 **Ayes:** Brenner, Byrd, and Donovan (3)

31 **Nays:** Browne, Buchanan, Frazey, and Sidhu (4)
32

33 **Sidhu moved** to amend to remove section 12 and add language that the Council
34 would review the inflation need at minimum every five years.
35

36 The motion was seconded.
37

38 The motion carried by the following vote:

39 **Ayes:** Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (5)

40 **Nays:** Browne and Brenner (2)
41

42 **Sidhu moved** to select reserve amount option 2, a reserve amount only for new
43 fees being collected in the amount of \$272,000.
44

45 The motion was seconded.
46

47 The motion carried by the following vote:

48 **Ayes:** Buchanan, Browne, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (6)

49 **Nays:** Brenner (1)
50

51 Stoyka continued the presentation on the Homeowner's Incentive Program.
52

1 Councilmembers and staff discussed barriers to the HIP program in Sudden Valley
2 and the possibility of expanding the program, whether they could fold the program into the
3 stormwater utility program, and methods for developing rate credits.

4
5 Byrd moved to hold in committee.

6
7 The motion was seconded.

8
9 The motion to hold failed by the following vote:

10 **Ayes:** Brenner, Byrd, and Browne (3)

11 **Nays:** None Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (4)

12
13 **Donovan restated his motion** to ask staff to bring forward an ordinance as
14 amended for Introduction.

15
16 The motion carried by the following vote:

17 **Ayes:** Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu (5)

18 **Nays:** Brenner and Byrd (2)

19
20
21 **OTHER BUSINESS**

22
23 There was no other business.

24
25
26 **ADJOURN**

27
28 The meeting adjourned at 11:13 p.m.

29
30 The Council approved these minutes on June 18, 2019.

31
32 ATTEST:

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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rud Browne, Council Chair

Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription