

Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

1:30 PM

Hybrid Meeting

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 2:15 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Carol Frazey
Kaylee Galloway
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Kathy Kershner called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2023-735](#) Discussion of proposed ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 3.72 to align with RCW 39.04.320

The following people discussed the item with Councilmembers:

- Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Department Director
- Samantha Murdoch, Public Works Department

They answered questions about the State's tiered approach that was not included in the proposed ordinance, whether the changes to Whatcom County Code 3.72.020 (Minimum apprentice labor hours required for public work) changed from what the Council originally passed, whether these changes have a material effect on when the apprenticeship requirements kick in, and whether the start date is being extended so we would not start January first but would start later after two pilot projects to be in alignment with the State.

Galloway thanked the presenters and stated that being able to set up these two pilot projects is a good middle ground to show they are committed to the program while they delay it a year.

The presenters answered whether the two pilot projects will start in January, whether they will turn around fast enough to be in place by July, and whether every jurisdiction will have a similar program when this goes into effect statewide.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2023-776](#) Resolution requesting that the Whatcom County Executive and staff pursue public

access opportunities for trails on all county-owned land and easements

Frazey briefed the Councilmembers on the resolution. She stated she would like the Executive and staff to look at what trails and public access the County can give the community as we build things like levies for flood mitigation and buy land in those areas, or on every County property or easement acquisition for any purpose.

Galloway moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Department Director, and Frazey answered questions. They answered whether there are places where Public Works would have a concern for allowing access and whether this is mandating they create access, whether there are times we can leverage situations where someone has put their land in some conservation status and has an agreement in place that public access would be allowed, whether they should expand on this resolution and get an inventory of those types of agreements that are in place, whether "other county facilities" in the first bullet of the NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED statement of the resolution include county owned forest lands, and whether the intent of the fourth bullet ("potential recreational and nonmotorized trail opportunities") is read as non-motorized overall and not motorized.

Galloway's motion that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

Nay: 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 1:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Kathy Kershner-via email 12/11/2023

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kathy Kershner, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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