

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.128, BUSINESS AND COMMERCE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE, TO REVISE MEMBERSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2018, the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2018-030, creating the Whatcom County Business and Commerce Advisory Committee (BCAC); and

**WHEREAS**, on April 9, 2019, the Whatcom County Council adopted Ordinance 2019-031, amending the Whatcom County Business and Commerce Advisory Committee (BCAC) membership; and

**WHEREAS**, the primary purpose of the BCAC is to provide the County Council with advice on issues, including regulations and policies that could impact local businesses, industry, or economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, membership of the BCAC currently includes elected officials, representatives of the county's institutions of higher education, and representatives of internet technology, manufacturing, food processing, recreation, retail, marine trades, commercial real estate, agriculture, and energy industries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council wishes to revise committee membership to include one representative from the construction industry and one additional member representing for-profit business entities in any industry.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code 2.128 is hereby amended as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

( ) Approved      ( ) Denied

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Yellow highlight –3.21.2023 changes**

**Turquoise highlight – 5.23.2023 changes**

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Chapter 2.128**  
**BUSINESS AND COMMERCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Sections:**

- 2.128.010 Established.**
- 2.128.020 Purpose.**
- 2.128.030 Function.**
- 2.128.040 Membership.**
- 2.128.050 Organization – Meetings.**
- 2.128.055 Committee staffing.**

**2.128.010 Established.**

The Whatcom County business and commerce advisory committee is hereby established.

**2.128.020 Purpose.**

The committee will advise the Whatcom County council on issues, including regulations and policies that could impact local businesses, industry, or economic development.

**2.128.030 Function.**

The committee will report directly to the county council as necessary to carry out the following functions:

- A. Review and provide recommendations on comprehensive plans, regulations, economic development efforts and on proposals which directly impact business and economic conditions in Whatcom County; and
- B. Assist the county and provide recommendations on efforts to improve business conditions, environment and infrastructure; and
- C. Assist and develop recommendations for comprehensive economic development efforts of associate development organizations (ADO) and other issues impacting business in Whatcom County; and
- D. Develop recommendations and strategies for ensuring the county applies a client-focused approach to supporting businesses with regulations, permitting, and planning.

**2.128.040 Membership.**

- A. The committee shall be composed of ~~20~~ **24** members serving four-year terms.
- B. The following designated officials shall be nonvoting members:
  - 1. One member of the Whatcom County council;
  - 2. County executive or designee;
  - 3. City of Bellingham mayor or designee;
  - 4. Port of Bellingham executive director or designee; and
  - 5. One representative from the small cities, designated by the Small Cities Caucus.
- C. The county council shall appoint one member representing for-profit entities in each of the following industries:
  - 1. Internet technology;
  - 2. Manufacturing;
  - 3. Food processing;
  - 4. Recreation;
  - 5. Retail;
  - 6. Marine trades;
  - 7. Commercial real estate;
  - 8. Agriculture;

9. Energy industry; ~~and~~

10. Health care; ~~and~~

11. Construction; ~~and~~

12. Childcare

D. The county council shall also appoint ~~three voting representatives, one each, from three of the four largest employers in Whatcom County, based on the latest report of Whatcom County Top Employers by Western Washington University Center of Economic and Business Research, one voting representative from K-12 education.~~

~~D~~ E. The county council shall also appoint:

1. ~~Three~~ Four members representing for-profit business entities in any industry, including those listed in subsection C of this section; and
2. Two nonvoting members representing the county's institutions of higher education (Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, the Northwest Indian College, and Bellingham Technical College).

E F. No two appointed members may represent or be employed by the same company or organization.

F G. The term of office for appointed members shall be four years; provided, that the terms of those first appointed shall be staggered so that five will be appointed for two years and six will be appointed for four years.

## **2.128.050 Organization – Meetings.**

A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.

B. The committee shall determine its own meeting schedule but shall meet at least four times per year and attempt to complete its work as expeditiously as possible.

C. At every meeting, the committee will schedule an open session to take public comment on local business issues. Written records of meetings, resolutions, findings, and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be public. The county council and county executive shall receive meeting minutes on a regular basis.

D. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.

E. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.

F. The committee shall comply with Whatcom County Charter Section 4.20, Qualifications, and with Chapter 2.03 WCC, Boards and Commissions.

## **2.128.055 Committee staffing.**

The Port of Bellingham office of director of economic development shall provide staffing for the committee.