

**Whatcom County  
Council Special Committee of the Whole**

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



**Committee Minutes - Final**

**Wednesday, November 6, 2019**

**2:45 PM**

**Council Chambers**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barbara Brenner  
Rud Browne  
Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Carol Frazey  
Satpal Sidhu

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

## Call To Order

Council Vice Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Barbara Brenner, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey and Satpal Sidhu

**Absent:** 1 - Rud Browne

## Committee Discussion

1. [AB2019-472](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 9.32, Unlawful Discharge of Firearms, to establish a no shooting zone in the Drayton Harbor area of Whatcom County

Michael Jones, Blaine City Manager, submitted two emails (on file), sent to the Mayor and the Blaine City Council, and a map showing the proposed zone (on file) and he gave a report. He spoke about the boat launches on the map; the density of use of the harbor and the density of development around the harbor; and how many complaint calls have been received by the City, the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and Blaine Police Department. He answered questions about whether the calls were for safety reasons.

Donnell Tanksley, Blaine City Police Chief, spoke about the number of calls made over the last few years to 9-1-1 about safety concerns surrounding hunting and how calls to DFW or elected officials are not factored into that data. He answered questions about whether a person who calls the Police Department is identified, whether any received calls on the issue have been verified to be about safety, what constitutes a safety concern, and the range of pellets shot from a shot gun.

Councilmembers and Jones discussed whether there is data that reports on the number of boats, kayakers, and walkers during the time that people would be shooting; the population growth in Blaine; the distance between the shoreline and the City limits; whether there are any homes in the range of a shot gun; what other hunting locations there are in the county; and why the second proposal for a no-shooting zone (AB2019-573) came as a separate petition request.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, gave an explanation of the process for the two proposals.

Councilmembers and Jones discussed population growth, whether limiting hunting areas would create another safety issue of hunters being concentrated in a few small areas, making rules about incompatible recreational uses, and whether more data is

needed to make determinations about safety.

John Sitkin, Blaine City Attorney, spoke about the need for and the lack of available data.

Karen Frakes, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered a question about whether tribal treaty rights in open and unclaimed land would exempt tribal members from the proposed ordinance and spoke about adding related language to the ordinance.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2019-573](#) Resolution acknowledging receipt of a citizen petition to form a no shooting zone in Whatcom County to be known as the Dearborn No Shooting Zone

***Sidhu moved*** to recommend introduction to the full Council. The motion was seconded.

Dana Brown-Davis, answered a question about the process of the resolution.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Brenner, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Browne

Doug Chadwick, Sheriff's Office, answered a question about a Sheriff report submitted by the petitioner (on file), whether there have been firearm injury incidents related to the area in question, whether a wound from shot gun pellets would be lethal, how far a duck hunter need to be from shore, and whether a hunter could discharge a firearm on land from the shoreline as opposed to the water if the land was not in a no-shooting zone.

**Sidhu moved and Frazey seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Brenner, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Absent:** 1 - Browne

### **Other Business**

Councilmembers and Brown-Davis discussed the process of adding an amendment to the proposed ordinance AB2019-472 to include language about treaty rights.

Jones stated that additional data could probably not be supplied by the City of Blaine.

*Frazey moved* to schedule the amended proposed ordinance for consideration on December 3, 2019. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, Sidhu

**Nay:** 1 - Byrd

**Abstain:** 1 - Brenner

**Absent:** 1 - Browne

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on December 3, 2019

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Todd Donovan, Council Vice Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE