

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

3:25 PM

Hybrid Meeting

HYBRID MEETING – ADJOURNS BY 4:45 P.M. PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE EXPERIENCING INTERMITTENT DIFFICULTIES WITH OUR MEETING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM. IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO VIEW VIA THE "IN-PROGRESS" LINK, SEE ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS AT whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil.

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
Kaylee Galloway
Kathy Kershner

Call To Order

Council Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:48 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Announcements

Special Presentation

1. AB2022-292 Presentation from Human Services Division regarding Homeless Housing Programs

The following people presented:

- Ann Beck, Health Department
- Chris D'Onofrio, Health Department
- Ashley Geleynse, Health Department
- Amanda Burnett, Health Department (did not speak)

They answered a question about the timeline and goals for each of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) going out this summer, whether they have a sense of what communities of people are off of their radar (as mentioned in the presentation), and whether they have any resources or programs that support people that are aging and maybe losing their housing.

This agenda item was PRESENTED.

Committee Discussion

1. AB2022-311 Discussion relating to draft Interlocal Agreements with the cities of Bellingham, Everson, Lynden, Nooksack, and Sumas concerning planning, annexation and development within urban growth areas

Matt Aamot, Planning and Development Services Department, presented and answered whether they can proceed without having the interlocals from Ferndale and Blaine, whether the ten-year time period for reimbursement for projects is still a factor, why Ferndale and Blaine have not agreed yet, and who is proposing the changes for Ferndale.

Councilmembers concurred that they did not have concerns on the interlocals presented today.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

2. AB2022-318 Discussion of a draft ordinance granting Cascade Natural Gas Corporation a franchise for the transportation of natural gas in Whatcom County

Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, briefed the Councilmembers and stated they are here to update the Council on the status of the franchise agreement with Cascade Natural Gas (CNG).

Andrew Hester, Public Works Department, and Quinn answered questions about the original term of the agreement, whether this agreement is talking about CNG being able to maintain their gas lines in the County right of way, what the Climate Impact Advisory Committee's thought process was behind shortening the term to seven years or whether they even weighed in on that, whether a longer term agreement would benefit the County, whether CNG is OK with the term, whether the franchise fee is a new fee, and whether there are any projects that CNG is now going to abandon because the seven year term is not long enough.

Buchanan stated he is happy with what the County has been able to negotiate and the work the Climate Impact Advisory Committee has done.

The speakers answered when they will come back to Council with an Ordinance for introduction, whether Federal or State agencies would require the majority of the language in the Ordinance even if we did not include it, whether anyone took issue with the insurance and bond requirements, whether it would be better for the County to lock CNG into a longer contract since they are a known entity and a good provider, and whether the County would have the opportunity to go back to the table and amend the franchise agreement to reflect the most up-to-date policies in the event that State or Federal regulatory policies change.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.


Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

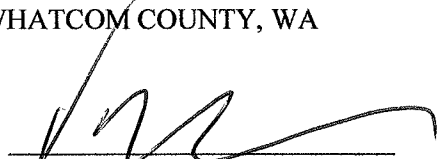
The County Council approved these minutes on June 21, 2022.

ATTEST:


WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA



Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk



Todd Donovan, Council Chair



Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

