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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Special Committee of the Whole

January 29, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Rud Browne called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.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. AB2019-101 COUNCIL TO CLARIFY INTENT OF MOTION APPROVED JANUARY 15, 2019, RELATED TO PRELIMINARY DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING CODE AMENDMENTS - CHERRY POINT

Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department, referenced his email to the Council dated January 28, 2019 with the October and December versions of the Comprehensive Plan Amendment exhibits. He would like the Council to approve the exhibits to go forward to the Planning Commission, identify which version is preferred, and provide any additional guidance to the Planning Commission.

Browne moved to approve a resolution requesting the County Executive provide staff resources and funding to allow Cascadia Law Group to complete contract No. 201708008 related to legal ways the County may choose to limit the negative impacts on public safety, transportation, the economy, and environment from crude oil, coal, liquefied petroleum gases, and natural gas transshipments from the Cherry Point UGA.

Councilmembers discussed the two versions of the Comprehensive Plan amendments, the motion from January 15, transparency, getting legal advice from an unbiased law group, and the Council's inability to instruct the administration's staff.

Brenner moved to hold in committee for two weeks.

The motion was seconded.

The motion to hold in committee failed by the following vote:

Ayes: Brenner and Byrd (2)

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

Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, answered questions on funding and the budget.

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2 Councilmembers continued to discuss the process on the Planning Commission's
3 review of the Comprehensive Plan amendments, transparency, funding for legal counsel, the
4 appropriate timing of bringing forward a resolution, the timeline for review by Cascadia Law
5 Group and the Planning Commission, and whether the proposed resolution would supplant
6 the two versions of the Comprehensive Plan amendment exhibits.

7
8 The motion to approve the resolution was seconded.

9
10 **Donovan suggested a friendly amendment** to amend the resolution, "Be it
11 further resolved that **the County Council requests** that Planning and Development Services
12 (PDS) ~~be instructed to~~ work with Cascadia Law Group...."

13
14 **Browne accepted** the friendly amendment.

15
16 Councilmembers continued to discuss the timing of approving the draft resolution.

17
18 **Browne amended his motion and moved** to refer the resolution to the full Council
19 at the evening Council meeting.

20
21 The motion to refer the resolution to the full Council carried by the following vote:

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

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

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25
26 **OTHER BUSINESS**

27
28 There was no other business.

29
30
31 **ADJOURN**

32
33 The meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

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35 The Council approved these minutes on _____, 2019.

36
37 ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

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42 _____
43 Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Rud Browne, Council Chair

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47 _____
48 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription