

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, October 24, 2023

3:10 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 2:55 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

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2023-696](#) Resolution supporting the use of Economic Development Investment (EDI) funds for affordable housing

Buchanan and Galloway briefed the Councilmembers on changes made to the *draft* resolution since the last discussion (See **AB2023-583**). Galloway stated they took out the prescriptive percentages for the fund balance and the annual revenues and replaced those with a request that the Economic Development Investment (EDI) Board, in consultation with the community, issue a recommendation to Council for those percentages.

Clerk's note: The "Proposed Resolution" and "Proposed Resolution (with tracked changes approved in committee)" for this file reflect the changes made to the *draft* resolution in the original discussions.

Frazey moved and Byrd seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Councilmembers discussed how these funds can be used for the purpose of affordable housing and that allowable uses are dictated by the Revised Code of Washington (RCW), what the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee thought of the resolution, having a future discussion about whether they should put housing advocates on the EDI board since that board will be giving recommendations to the Council, and equity among jurisdictions in getting EDI money.

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, spoke about the addition in this proposed version of the resolution of the recommendation that the EDI Board "Propose updates to Board membership to promote more diverse representation amongst economic development sectors, including affordable and workforce housing" (point number five under "BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED" in the resolution).

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

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

Nay: 0

- 2. [AB2023-676](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive’s appointment of Raylene Heutink-King as County Clerk of Superior Court effective November 6, 2023 pursuant to Whatcom County Charter Section 3.61

Galloway moved and Kershner seconded that the Executive Appointment REQUEST be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Raylene Heutink-King, County Clerk of Superior Court appointee, addressed the Councilmembers and spoke about her 18 years of experience in the City of Blaine.

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, stated he and the Executive had the opportunity to sit down with Raylene and he really appreciates the collaboration with the judicial branch on the replacement of the County Clerk.

Buchanan spoke about working with Heutink-King in the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force and the steering committee, and stated he is very happy that she will be working in this role.

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

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, 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 3:08 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on November 8, 2023.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE