

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

VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS BY 9:55 A.M.; MEETING ADDED 6.11.2021

(TO PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT

www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010)

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

9:30 AM

Council Chambers

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2021-345](#) Discussion regarding reopening Council operations to the public

The following people spoke and briefed the Councilmembers:

- Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
- Perry Rice, Administrative Services Department Information Technology
- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office

The speakers answered questions and Councilmembers discussed possible ways to set up the Chambers for hybrid meetings; equipment that may need to be purchased now to help facilitate hybrid meetings; policies concerning masking, social distancing, and vaccination for in-person meetings; whether there should be mandates in place for public participation or just requests; waiting until the county has 70 or 80% of the population vaccinated before opening the chambers; having staff (Health Department, Council Office, Legal Counsel, Administration, and Facilities) craft the framework of a policy or reopening plan that the Council could then discuss; being slow in the reopening process to allow time to get things in order and to keep staff from being overburdened; and finding out what other jurisdictions are doing.

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 10:07 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on June 29, 2021.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE