

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. (TO
PARTICIPATE, SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010)
Tuesday, February 23, 2021

3:20 PM

Virtual Meeting

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

Council Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.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

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2020-219](#) Discussion and update on strategies and other items related to COVID-19 (Council and Health Board)

The following staff spoke:

- Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director
- Greg Stern, Health Officer

They updated the Councilmembers and answered questions about the following:

- A COVID-19 variant which has now been identified in Whatcom County
- The number of first doses of vaccine Whatcom County providers are receiving this week from the state (2,540 first doses)
- The percent of eligible Whatcom County residents vaccinated: Forty three percent of the county have received a first dose and 20 percent are fully vaccinated as of February 22, 2021
- Two initiatives including building a large-scale vaccination clinic, and a mobile vaccine option piloted by the Health Department
- A second testing site at the Bellingham Airport available for scheduling on the Test Directly website
- COVID-19 recovery and finding a new and better normal

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

2. [AB2021-111](#) Discussion of resolution docketing comprehensive plan and development regulation amendments

Matt Aamot, Planning and Development Services Department, gave a presentation and answered questions.

The following additional people spoke:

- Greg Aucutt, City of Bellingham Planning Department
- Karen Frakes, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed the items listed on the Substitute Exhibit A (Draft Docket - Revised 2.22.2021).

Donovan moved to eliminate the proposal (PLN2021-00002 TDR Receiving Area) regarding Transfer of Development Rights (TDRs) as it appears here. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the motion.

The additional people spoke:

- Brad Swanson, on behalf of the applicant

Donovan stated he would be willing to withdraw his motion if they could come back to this.

Kershner moved that the committee recommend all docketed items to the full Council. The motion was seconded by Elenbaas but Donovan's motion was still on the floor.

Donovan stated he would be willing to withdraw his motion if they had more time and if the proposal was precise to allow the transfer of just three dwelling units.

Councilmembers and staff discussed whether the resolution could be amended for tonight's meeting.

Donovan withdrew his motion.

Kershner moved to recommend approval of the whole substitute docket to the full Council with an amendment to PLN2021-00002 to limit development to a maximum of three densities as suggested by Donovan. The motion was seconded by Elenbaas.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription