

# **Whatcom County Council as the Health Board**

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



## **Minutes - Final**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE**

**Tuesday, October 6, 2020**

**10:45 AM**

**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 10:46 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

**Public Session**

Buchanan gave instruction for how people can speak in the meeting.

He opened the public session and the following people spoke:

- Ken Gas spoke in favor of the Resolution affirming Racism as a Public Health Crisis and the Ordinance Creating a Child and Family Task Force.
- Heather Flaherty spoke in favor of the Resolution affirming Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

Cathy Halka, Council Office, gave instruction on how to speak at the meeting and the following additional people spoke:

- Shu-Ling Zhao spoke in favor of the Resolution affirming Racism as a Public Health Crisis.
- Emily O'Connor spoke in favor of the Resolution affirming Racism as a Public Health Crisis.
- April Barker spoke in favor of the Resolution affirming Racism as a Public Health Crisis.

Hearing no one else, Buchanan closed the Public Session.

**Ordinance: Creating a Child and Family Task Force**

Sterling Chick, Public Health Advisory Board Vice-Chair and Catholic Community Services, briefed the Councilmembers on the proposed Ordinance.

*Donovan moved* to recommend advancement of the Ordinance to the County Council for adoption. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director, answered a question about the Exhibit section titled "Staff and Funding Support" and whether the

Health Department has or will, after funding, have the staff capacity, and whether any thought was given to including in the task force membership the faith-based community and other community members that maybe have solutions for working through some of the issues that are identified.

**Byrd moved** to recommend an amendment to the Ordinance to remove the list of permanent members from Exhibit A. The motion was seconded by Kershner.

Councilmembers discussed the motion to amend and the following people spoke:

- Chi-Na Stoane, Public Health Advisory Board Chair, answered how the list of proposed task force members was determined, and what her thoughts are on the proposed amendment.
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, spoke about the diversity represented in the proposed list of permanent task force members.
- Sterling Chick stated the task force includes members that focus on upstream prevention for children before entering school and who offer a lot of expertise. He answered what ages this Ordinance would target, and whether the two groups of task force members (permanent and additional appointed members) should be divided into two groups.

The motion to recommend an amendment failed by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Kershner

**Nay:** 4 - Browne, Buchanan, Donovan, and Frazey

**Kershner moved** to recommend an amendment to the Ordinance to include under the list of Additional Appointed Members the following list:

- Faith community
- Law enforcement
- Homeschool/private school
- Foster care mom or Dad
- Fathers
- High School Student
- College Age Student
- Elderly representative
- Hispanic/Black/Asian members
- Homeless teen
- Single Mom
- Two parent families

The motion was seconded by Byrd.

Councilmembers discussed the motion to amend and whether the discussion should be referred to the Public Works and Health Committee.

***Kershner amended*** her motion to say 25 members including all of those categories.

Councilmembers continued to discuss the motion to amend.

***Buchanan moved*** to table the motion to recommend an amendment until they have a chance to refer the item to Committee. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

The motion to table the motion to recommend an amendment carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey, Kershner, and Browne

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

***Buchanan moved*** to table the main motion and refer it to the Public Works and Health Committee on October 13, 2020. The motion was seconded by Browne.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

### **Resolution: Racism as a Public Health Crisis**

[AB2020-431](#) Resolution affirming racism as a Public Health Crisis

Steve Bennett, Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB), presented and briefed the Councilmembers on the proposed Resolution.

***Donovan moved*** that the Resolution be approved. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

*Clerk's note:* Browne had to leave the meeting during the following discussion.

Councilmembers, Bennett, and Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director, discussed the Resolution.

Lautenbach provided a brief Health Department Director report and stated

that in the next six to eight months three senior leaders in the Health Department are set to retire and the department is beginning recruitment for those positions soon. She then had to leave the meeting.

Astrid Newell, Health Department, answered which staff members are planning to retire.

Bennett and Chi-Na Stoane, PHAB Chair, answered questions about the data and definitions used in the presentation and the Resolution.

Councilmembers discussed how to proceed with the Resolution.

**Byrd moved** that they form a sub-committee with two Councilmembers, Stoane, and Bennett to update the Resolution and bring it back to the Health Board. The motion was seconded by Kershner.

**Buchanan suggested** a friendly amendment that Byrd split the motion into two parts: to hold the item and then to form the sub-committee.

**Byrd** accepted the friendly amendment, Kershner seconded, and Councilmembers voted on the **the first motion** to hold the item.

The motion to hold the item failed by the following vote:

**Aye:** 3 - Elenbaas, Kershner, and Byrd

**Nay:** 3 - Donovan, Frazey, and Buchanan

**Out of the Meeting:** 1 - Browne

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, and the Councilmembers discussed possible ways to proceed with the Resolution as the Health Board or in Committee of the Whole and then the Council acting as the Health Board.

Tammy Axlund, Health Department, stated the next Health Board meeting is December 1, 2020.

Councilmembers and Brown-Davis discussed how to proceed with the Resolution.

**Donovan moved** to hold the Resolution and to refer it to the Committee of the Whole or Public Works and Health Committee on October 13, 2020 or October 27, 2020. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

The motion to hold and refer the item to Committee carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Elenbaas, Frazey, Buchanan, Byrd, and Donovan

**Nay:** 1 - Kershner

**Out of the Meeting:** 1 - Browne

Councilmembers, Stoane and Bennett discussed the second part of Byrd's motion which was to form a subcommittee with two Councilmembers, Stoane, and Bennett to update and bring forward a new proposed Resolution.

***Buchanan moved*** to appoint Elenbaas and Browne as representatives of the Health Board and request two people from the PHAB also work on updating the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Byrd.

Elenbaas requested that the timeline be moved to the 27th of October.

***Buchanan withdrew*** his motion and ***moved*** to reconsider Donovan's motion to hold the Resolution and to refer it to Committee on October 13, 2020 or October 27, 2020. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

***Buchanan withdrew*** his motion to reconsider and again ***moved*** to nominate and appoint Browne and Elenbaas and request two people from the PHAB to work on updating the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Byrd.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Frazey, Kershner, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, and Elenbaas

**Nay:** 0

**Out of the Meeting:** 1 - Browne

***Buchanan moved*** to reconsider the motion to hold the Resolution and to refer it to the Committee on October 13, 2020 or October 27, 2020. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

The motion to reconsider carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Kershner, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, and Frazey

**Nay:** 0

**Out of the Meeting:** 1 - Browne

***Donovan moved*** to hold the item and to refer it to the Committee of the Whole or Public Works and Health Committee on October 27, 2020. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

Councilmembers and Stoane discussed the motion

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 5 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, and Frazey

**Nay:** 1 - Kershner

**Out of the Meeting:** 1 - Browne

**Approved motions:**

**Buchanan's motion to nominate and appoint Browne and Elenbaas and request two people from the PHAB to work on updating the Resolution carried 6-0-1 with Browne out of the meeting and**

**Donovan's motion that the Resolution be REFERRED TO COMMITTEE and sent to Committee of the Whole or Public Works and Health Committee on October 27, 2020 carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 5 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Frazey and Elenbaas

**Nay:** 1 - Kershner

**Absent:** 0

**Temp Absent:** 1 - Browne

**Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) Update**

Chi-Na Stoane stated they have already covered their updates.

**Director/Health Officer Report**

There was no report but Buchanan reiterated that there are three Health Department staff vacancies coming up.

**Other Business**

Elenbaas thanked Stoane for being welcoming.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on October 27, 2020.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Health Board Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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