

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, April 26, 2022

3:40 PM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 4:40 P.M.; MAY BEGIN EARLY
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON OR 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 Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 3:40 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

Absent: None

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2022-251](#) Discussion of proposed resolution establishing priorities for Whatcom County's 2025 Comprehensive Plan update

Galloway and Frazey briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions about the House Bills (HB 1099 and HB 1117) that did not pass and what specifically in them was something they considered beneficial to include in the Council's planning process, and whether they have heard anything from or run this by the Planning and Development Services Department (PDS).

Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director, spoke about the task of working on the Comprehensive Plan, Development Regulations, and the Critical Areas Ordinance and the challenge they face with department resources. They hope to have a strategy in place by the end of the year to clarify how they will go about doing all the work and what resources it will take.

Councilmembers discussed the Resolution, having the agricultural groups weigh in on the proposed Resolution, having a list of what other organizations it would be valuable to get input from, whether they want to run a parallel process or a pre-Comprehensive Plan review, not adding additional work requirements to staff if it is not necessary, getting more community input, the intent of the proposed Resolution to create a proactive wish list, how they make sure they put policies in the Comprehensive Plan that they then have time to actually implement and follow through on, and sending comments and suggestions to Galloway or Frazey before June so that Planning has an idea where the Council is coming from.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2022-224](#) Ordinance amending WCC 2.123.040 Membership - Term of Office for the Forestry Advisory Committee

Steve Roberge, Planning and Development Services Department, briefed the Councilmembers.

Kershner spoke about why she and Galloway brought this forward.

Jill Nixon, Council Office Staff, answered whether there are any boards and commissions that do not require that members be citizens of Whatcom County.

Councilmembers discussed whether they would be opening a can of worms by waiving the qualified registered voter and residency requirement.

Kershner moved and Buchanan seconded that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Councilmembers discussed the potential for having open session be a written comment for the May 10th Council meeting, the worry being there would be a lot of people commenting on the vacation rental item.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, stated there was not a quorum of Councilmembers responding to her with yes or no so she asked the chair to bring it up.

Kershner moved to accept written comment for the May 10th Council meeting due to the expected public input from the rental Ordinance that will be heard that night in lieu of in-person public comment.

Councilmembers discussed that this would just be for Open Session.

Kershner re-worded her motion and ***moved*** that they limit public comment during Open Session to written input only at the May 10th Council meeting. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

Councilmembers discussed the motion, other possible options, and how it would be noticed to the public.

Brown-Davis stated that Council staff is looking into different options for their meeting schedules and spoke about the plan for public notification if this motion is approved.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Byrd, and Donovan

Nay: 3 - Elenbaas, Kershner, and Buchanan

Abstain: 1 - Galloway

Galloway moved to encourage written comment and allow for up to an hour and a half of verbal comment in person or virtually for Open Session. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

Donovan stated they should do the first part whether there is a motion or not.

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

Galloway withdrew her motion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on May 10, 2022.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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