

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, January 24, 2023

9:20 AM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:00 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON AT
311 GRAND AVENUE SUITE 101, 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 9:22 a.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. [AB2023-020](#) Discussion regarding Council Office internship pilot program

Cathy Halka, Council Legislative Analyst, updated the Councilmembers.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, answered whether this topic will be addressed at the Council's retreat next week.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the idea of deciding one topic that all the Councilmembers would like to work on and then finding an intern that has some interest in that area or letting an intern choose what project they work on, whether one major project would fill out the intern's capacity or whether they would still try to accommodate individual Councilmembers' requests, what the intern's role should be, incorporating field experiences for the intern (such as taking them to meetings or tours), having them work on projects as needed, whether or not they will just open this up to students, and not having a requirement that the intern have a college degree.

Halka stated she would like to confirm whether the Council agrees to start this pilot program with one intern, how the Council would like to select the intern, and whether there is anything else in the memo they would like to do differently, such as education requirements.

Galloway stated she would be happy to serve on the selection panel and asked if Kershner was interested in also doing that. She stated she is fine with starting with one intern and thinks it is fine to open up qualifications and make an assessment of who we think would be the best fit for the office.

Kershner moved to amend the current plan to remove the requirement for the applicant to be a student and/or have a college degree.

Donovan suggested a friendly amendment that in order to receive credits as an intern they need to be a student currently enrolled in school.

Kershner accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Donovan moved that Councilmembers Galloway and Kershner be on the search committee with Cathy Halka. The motion was seconded by Frazey.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

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

2. [AB2023-087](#) Discussion and approval of letter of support for Ridge at Semiahmoo development
- Kershner briefed the Councilmembers on the letter and answered whether it was the same parcel the Council tried to take action on in 2011 but were shot down by the Growth Management Hearings Board, and where The Ridge at Semiahmoo is located.

Kershner stated the request in 2011 was a different parcel.

Buchanan moved approval of the letter. The motion was seconded by Byrd.

Councilmembers discussed whether they would be able to tweak it with something that says if you get an extension then you are subject to whatever code changes have happened since when your permit ended. You could extend the person's vesting, but it would have to be updating to whatever building codes or zoning codes apply.

Buchanan's motion that the Request for Motion be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL 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

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on February 7, 2023.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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