

DRAFT MINUTES 3.21.2023 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE

Kershner moved that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION and stated the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee requested the Council to add two new positions, one in construction and one at large (reflected in the Proposed Ordinance on file).

Donovan moved to amend Section 2.128.040 Subsections C of Exhibit A so that it would read:

C. The county council shall appoint one member representing for-profit entities in each of the following industries:

1. Internet technology;
2. Manufacturing;
3. Food processing;
4. Recreation;
5. Retail;
6. Marine trades;
7. Commercial real estate;
8. Agriculture;
9. Energy industry; ~~and~~
10. Health care; ~~and~~
11. Construction; and
12. Three voting representatives, one each, from three of the four largest employers in Whatcom County

Donovan answered whether he has a definition for largest employers and stated it is defined by Western Washington University's Center of Economic and Business Research, and Councilmembers discussed the motion, non-profits being added as voting members, and getting feedback first from the Business and Commerce and Advisory Committee.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Donovan

Nay: 1 - Kershner

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council stated a substitute Ordinance could be prepared for tonight so Council could vote on that version. She asked about where the added language should be added to the Exhibit.

Donovan agreed that the added language would be more appropriate as a new Subsection D (which would change D to E and E to F...).

Kershner asked whether the amendment was adding four members or three members.

Donovan stated it would be adding three members that could be picked from the four largest employers.

Galloway asked about the impact of adding three of the top four employers versus current membership since some seem to be represented and Donovan stated the Western representative cannot vote and the health care person can be from all sorts of industries and not necessarily from the largest employer.

Brown-Davis asked whether they need to add into the Ordinance where they are going to be choosing the top four employers from.

Jill Nixon, Council Office Staff, stated she pulled this information from a report produced by Western Washington University Center of Economic and Business Research entitled Whatcom County Top Employers.

Donovan moved to amend the Ordinance to add the following additional language into the new Subsection D of the Ordinance:

D. The county council shall also appoint [three voting representatives, one each, from three of the four largest employers in Whatcom County, based on the latest report of Whatcom County Top Employers by Western Washington University Center of Economic and Business Research.](#)

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Frazey, Donovan, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Clerk's note: See further discussion on this item under Other Business.

DRAFT MINUTES 3.21.2023 COUNCIL, OTHER BUSINESS

Kershner reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Substitute Ordinance be ADOPTED.

Kershner moved to change the amended version to read, “two of the largest for-profit employers in Whatcom County.” The motion was seconded by Elenbaas.

Councilmembers discussed the motion, that there is more conversation to be had on this, whether the employers should be for- or non-profit, whether this item should be held, what the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee suggested as far as adding positions, the fact that employers value good school districts when they are recruiting, whether someone from the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee could come and present to the Council on April 11th.

Buchanan moved to hold to April 11th, 2023. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

Kershner withdrew her motion.

Galloway suggested a friendly amendment to make it April 25th and **Buchanan accepted**. She stated she is interested in having the committee's feedback on what it would look like to add both a K-12 and an early learning/child care non-voting representative.

Donovan stated he would hope the Council would have a discussion, before hearing from the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, who it is they want to be hearing from on this and what the goals of the Council are.

Councilmembers discussed having that discussion on April 11th, that the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee only asked for two positions, and an encouragement to review the establishing Ordinance which outlines the purpose and functions of the committee.

