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Mark Personius, AICP
Director

Memorandum

TO: Whatcom County Council

FROM: Joshua Fleischmann, Planner

THROUGH: Mark Personius, Director

DATE: March 20, 2019

SUBJECT: Amendment to Whatcom County Code 2.120.040 Membership - Term of Office for the Surface Mining Advisory Committee

The proposed ordinance will amend Section 2.120.040 Membership - Term of Office for the Surface Mining Advisory Committee (SMAC). Presently, after serving two consecutive full terms, a citizen may become eligible for reappointment to the committee after a one-year period of separation (WCC 2.03.030). The proposed amendment would allow the County Council to waive the one-year period of separation when committee positions remain unfilled.

After seven committee members' terms expired (five 2nd term; two 1st term) on January 31, 2019, and three citizens were recently appointed to the committee, the SMAC presently consists of 5 appointed members and has 6 vacancies.

At the March 12th County Council Special Committee of the Whole, committee members expressed interest in ways to address unfilled positions and/or have a quorum on the SMAC.

Many of the five outgoing committee members whose 2nd term recently expired have expressed interest in staying involved, either by reapplying for the SMAC in the future or through remaining on an e-mail list of citizens interested in surface mining in Whatcom County.

Staff believes that this amendment is in the best interested of the stability of the SMAC, as it allows recent members who are interested in serving on the SMAC to fill positions that would otherwise remain vacant.

If you have any questions, please contact Joshua Fleischmann at jfleisch@co.whatcom.wa.us.