

# **Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole**

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



## **Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, September 28, 2021**

**3:05 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**VIRTUAL MEETING - ENDS BY 5 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY (TO PARTICIPATE,  
SEE INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) OR CALL  
360.778.5010)**

### **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 13:24 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Rud Browne, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

**Absent:** None

## Announcements

## Committee Discussion

- [AB2021-395](#) Discussion and periodic update of the Shoreline Management Program  
  
Donovan spoke about whether this item should be discussed in the Natural Resources Committee.  
  
Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department, briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions about the schedule for discussions on particular subjects, and about how to access the Shoreline Environment Designation map (Exhibit G) and a new conservancy designation on the map as defined in Chapter 11 (Exhibit B).  
  
**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**
- [AB2021-482](#) Presentation and discussion regarding Whatcom County's proposed American Rescue Plan Act funding priorities  
  
Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, briefed the Councilmembers. He and Councilmembers discussed whether there is money for projects they have not thought of yet, waiting until the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force brings their recommendations forward, the timeline going forward and when formal requests would be coming to Council, whether the Regional Water Infrastructure funding should be from the Conservation Futures Fund, money allocated to Blaine infrastructure, reserving the funds for projects in more rural areas that do not have other jurisdictions that can represent them, using American Rescue Plan Act Fund (ARPA) funds to compensate those who lose their job because they choose not to be vaccinated or who suffer adverse events or any effects from the vaccine in order to keep their job, what first Additional Service Requests (ASRs) might be brought to Council, whether AB2021-513 needs to be authorized tonight in order for the Administration to bring the Laurel/Forest request to Council, which ARPA "buckets" that request would come out of and how it is related to childcare, and whether the transfer of property to the

Opportunity Council should be for value or no value.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

3. [AB2021-541](#) Discussion of implementing the 2021 Whatcom County Climate Action Plan  
Chris Elder, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers.

He and Ellyn Murphy, Climate Impact Advisory Committee, answered where the position that would be hired to implement the plan would be housed, where the electricity comes from for these initiatives to move toward one hundred percent electrification of buildings, and whether there will be enough electricity to meet the needs.

Elder spoke about the next steps going forward.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2021-209](#) Resolution regarding permanent affordability of childcare in Whatcom County  
Frazey answered whether this is something they want to address today before they get a report from the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force.

Judy Ziels, Health Department, requested a deferral of this item to October 12, 2021.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, answered what is needed from the Committee today.

*Frazey moved* to extend the deadline in the affordability of childcare resolution to October 15. The motion was seconded by Browne.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Elenbaas

Cathy Halka, Council Legislative Analyst, updated the Councilmembers on the substitute resolution.

**This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDED MOTION(S).**

2. [AB2021-525](#) Discussion and request for Council motion regarding request for proposals (RFP) for independent review of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Browne briefed the Councilmembers and they discussed the item.

**Browne moved** to recommend approval of the document titled Substitute Draft Scope for 9.28, listed as attachment #3 on this file in the Legislative Information Center. The motion was seconded by Kershner.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

**This agenda item was FORWARDED TO COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDED MOTION(S).**

- 3. [AB2021-528](#) Resolution approving the Water District 13 Small Water System Management Plan

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, briefed the Councilmembers.

**Byrd moved and Frazey seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Frazey, 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 4:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription