

Whatcom County Council Public Works & Health Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

11:55 AM

Hybrid Meeting

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 1 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Carol Frazey
Kaylee Galloway
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Kathy Kershner called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Carol Frazey, Kaylee Galloway, and Kathy Kershner

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, and Ben Elenbaas

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2023-558](#) Resolution in the matter of considering vacating a portion of Camp 2 Road
Andrew Hester, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers and answered whether the potential vacation would be vacating the end of another road, what this resolution does as just a consideration of a vacation, and whether we expect a big outpour from the community.

Galloway moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

Nay: 0

2. [AB2023-559](#) Resolution in the matter of considering vacating a portion of County Road and an unnamed alley within the Amended Plat of South Wickersham

Andrew Hester, Public Works Department, briefed the Councilmembers.

Galloway moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2023-570](#) Discussion of an ordinance establishing Paul Davis honorary signs on Lummi Island
The following people briefed the Councilmembers:

- Roland Middleton, Public Works Department
- Mary Ross, Lummi Island Community Association President

Frazey requested that, as we move forward, we look at everyone in our

community, and that signs and plaques are not just given to one demographic.

Middleton stated he hopes Frazey volunteers to name the new boat.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated that what Frazey said has been on his mind and that they have a draft ordinance to form a committee to name buildings, conference rooms, and other places such as parks. They will bring something forward at the beginning of the year.

The related ordinance for item (**AB2023-571**) is on the agenda for introduction tonight. Galloway had made a motion but a motion was not needed.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

2. [AB2023-479](#) Discussion of an ordinance to amend WCC 2.145, Lummi Island Ferry Advisory Committee

Donovan briefed the Councilmembers and stated he would like to discuss the proposed language in Exhibit A regarding non-island members. He would like to know whether the Council would like to have non-island members just from unincorporated areas or whether they should also include people who live in cities. He stated there is also language in the ordinance about a representative from Lummi Nation and we have not consulted with the Lummi Nation on whether they want to be represented or not. He is wondering if that could be defined differently.

Councilmembers discussed Donovan's question about the off-island membership.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, requested that the ordinance bring more clarity to the current members and on whether they will serve out their terms. He spoke about the mention about providing assistance from Public Works and stated he is OK with doing that for a period of time, but if we do it for this one, we have to keep in mind the rest of the boards and commissions and that could be a substantial cost.

Donovan spoke about the question of unincorporated versus incorporated and stated he would support the idea of broadening it to off-island residents and not just ones in the unincorporated areas.

Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Department Director, spoke about getting input from the advisory committee on operations.

Kershner stated she would like to see language in the ordinance about reimbursement of ferry fares for attending meetings and Donovan and Kosa stated it already exists.

Kershner stated they could put an end date for support provided by Public Works and we may need to hire someone to do this.

Galloway spoke about changes she would like the Councilmembers to consider, including the name of the advisory committee and the location of the meetings, and Kosa spoke about the location.

Galloway moved to amend to add a line to read, "There will be good faith effort to host meetings both on and off-island."

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Galloway moved to change the name of the committee to Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Frazey, Galloway, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Kosa answered whether there will be expense for the Committee documentation needed to change the name of the committee.

Galloway stated she would like to provide some security to the members who are currently on the advisory committee and would like to make sure those members get to roll over. She also would like to change the language that says, "A public comment session will be scheduled at all regular meetings at which final action is taken" so that public comment can be at every scheduled regular meeting.

Galloway moved to amend line 33 of page four of Exhibit A to strike "at which final action is taken."

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, answered a question about State law about public comment at special Council meetings, and stated Galloway was talking about regular meetings.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Kershner, Frazey, and Galloway

Nay: 0

Clerk's note: Kershner had to leave the meeting at 12:51 p.m.

Galloway stated they still need direction on the membership composition and the questions that Donovan proposed.

Frazey stated (regarding whether to allow current members to roll over) she would like to start over with membership and give everyone the chance to apply or reapply.

Councilmembers discussed Frazey's comment and how that would work with the ordinance, and also how current members might fit into Council's decision on whether or not to include off-island people from cities or just unincorporated areas.

Galloway moved to amend Whatcom County Code 2.145.040 (A) regarding Membership and Term of office and combine it with the proposed idea in Subsection B so that it reads, "A. The committee shall consist of nine voting members. Five members will be residents or property owners on Lummi Island. Four members will not reside or own property on Lummi Island. and Preference will be given to a Lummi Nation representative and unincorporated Whatcom County residents when possible. will reside in unincorporated Whatcom County.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and whether they should engage the Tribe first, and **Galloway withdrew** her motion.

Galloway moved to recommend continued discussion at the full Council meeting tonight.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Frazey and Galloway

Nay: 0

Out of the Meeting: 1 - Kershner

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, clarified that this item does not require a public hearing.

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

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Kathy Kershner, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription