

**Whatcom County
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, February 6, 2024
12:15 PM
Hybrid Meeting**

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 12:50 P.M., MAY BEGIN EARLY
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA
REVISED 2.6.2024

COUNCILMEMBERS

Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Kaylee Galloway

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Kaylee Galloway, and Todd Donovan

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremmer

Announcements

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

Galloway moved to recommend approval of Consent Agenda items one through seven.

Byrd stated he would like to vote on items six and seven separately.

Councilmembers discussed the following items:

Consent Agenda Item #3 AB2024-102

Erika Douglas, Public Works Department, answered whether we are on track with the timeline for our deliverables and stated it has taken longer than anticipated to get the contract in place but she thinks they will be able to meet all of the timelines.

Consent Agenda Item #2 AB2024-099

Holly Faulstich, Public Works Department, answered whether this is the study to look at how the rates might be changing to address the shortfalls of projects that we are falling behind on. She stated this is not the contract for the study but the contract to amend the fee roll processing contract to adopt the new changes that are made by FCS Group (See AB2023-484).

Councilmembers voted on Consent Agenda items one through five (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2024-098](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Local Agency Standard Service Agreement between Whatcom County and Pacific Surveying & Engineering Services, Inc., to provide on-call professional land surveying services for 2024, in the amount not to exceed \$100,000

Galloway moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

2. [AB2024-099](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and FLO Analytics to update the Birch Bay Watershed and Aquatic Resources Management (BBWARM) district's fee roll process in accordance with a rate study that is currently underway in the amount of \$50,965.00 for a total amended contract amount of \$70,720.00 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Galloway moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

3. [AB2024-102](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife to support the fish passage barrier remediation program, in the amount of \$800,250.00

Galloway moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

4. [AB2024-104](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to conduct a climate vulnerability assessment and develop shoreline management solutions, in the amount of \$250,000.00

Galloway moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

5. [AB2024-106](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Nooksack Indian Tribe where the Flood Control Zone District will reimburse the tribe for 80% of the eligible grant costs for work as outlined in Task 4 of the 2021-2023 Floodplains by Design grant specific to the Fish

Camp (Ts'eq) Integrated Fish-Flood Project, in the amount of \$880,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Galloway moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

6. [AB2024-117](#) Resolution to declare Whatcom County owned structure located in Bay Horizon Park as worthless

This item was considered separately below.

7. [AB2024-118](#) Resolution to declare Whatcom County owned structure located in Hovander Park as worthless

This item was considered separately below.

Consent Agenda Items Considered Separately and Discussed Together

6. [AB2024-117](#) Resolution to declare Whatcom County owned structure located in Bay Horizon Park as worthless

The following applies to both **AB2024-117** and **AB2024-118**.

The following people briefed the Councilmembers:

- Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Schroeder stated these demolitions have been budgeted for 2024 and this is the process to move forward and have Council confirm that the properties are no longer needed. He and Sidhu described the structures at both locations, their current uses, and why they are deemed as worthless.

Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director, answered which structure it is at **Hovander Park**, how much the County has been renting the house for, and whether there is a list of specific upcoming repairs that the house would require. He stated it is subject to flooding so repairs would be a potential possibility. He answered whether the property has actually flooded in recent years and whether this action is time sensitive. He stated they are hoping to have this accomplished prior to the next flood season.

Byrd asked whether there is an active renter in the space and how long they have been renting the unit.

Councilmembers made a motion and voted on item #6 and then continued discussion of item #7 (see item #7 below).

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

7. [AB2024-118](#) Resolution to declare Whatcom County owned structure located in Hovander Park as worthless

This item and AB2024-117 were discussed together. See the first part of this discussion under **AB2024-117**.

Byrd moved to hold this item until the next meeting.

Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director, answered whether it would be OK to hold this for two weeks and Councilmembers discussed that they would like to get more information about why this house is not needed if it is currently housing a family. Knox spoke about how the property fits into a master plan for Hovander Park that is starting this year. He answered whether he has numbers on anticipated capital maintenance on the property in the coming years or whether those improvements have been done, and what resources or services the County provides renters when they have to go find new housing in a situation like this.

Donovan stated he would like to have a brief discussion at a later date about the Parks' Department's role in being a landlord, how many properties we have, and whether it is something the County wants to keep doing.

Byrd's motion that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED TO BE HELD IN COMMITTEE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

1. [AB2024-131](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2023-056 to correct the levy amounts for the City of Bellingham and re-certify property tax levies for collection in 2024 to the County Assessor

Donovan briefed the Councilmembers. He stated we certify all the taxing district's levies for the coming year and Bellingham sent two versions. The one that we certified was based on their greenways levy *not* being approved and it *was* approved.

Rebecca Xczar, County Assessor, spoke about a change of process prompted by the Department of Revenue for certifying levies and that the district's information got missed. She believes the Council is going to consider requiring all jurisdictions to use Department of Revenue forms and that will help mitigate this in the future.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, answered whether it was originally certified by resolution (and does not need to be an ordinance) and whether the Department of Revenue has already signed off on the fix. She stated it was originally done by resolution.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Todd Donovan-via email 3/22/2024

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Todd Donovan, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE

