

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, March 19, 2024
10 AM
Hybrid Meeting**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:50 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON,
SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil,
OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

**Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Kaylee Galloway**

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee member Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.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 Stremmler

Announcements

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

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

Stremmler stated he would like to discuss Consent Agenda item number four (**AB2024-192**).

Erika Lautenbach, Health and Community Services Director, answered whether they are doing monkey pox vaccinations and stated they have not done them in a couple years.

Galloway asked about Consent Agenda item number one (**AB2024-186**).

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, answered whether there are opportunities to expand this collaboration to other departments beyond Health and Community Services. She stated they are working with Human Resources on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) trainings for County employees and they have expressed a desire in the past to look internally at the County organization doing some sort of DEI work. They are also looking at community-based trainings.

Councilmembers voted on the Consent items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2024-186](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and Bellingham Technical College to exchange no-cost, internal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion assessments of each other's organizations

Donovan 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

2. [AB2024-188](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Central Consulting LLC to provide strategic consultation services related to implementation of the Healthy Children's Fund in the amount of \$30,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$45,000

Donovan 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

3. [AB2024-189](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal contract amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Everson to extend the term of the Jail Use Agreement until December 31, 2024

Donovan 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. [AB2024-192](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to fund various public health programs in the decreased amount of \$531,200 for a total amended agreement amount of \$13,893,641

Donovan 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. [AB2024-193](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Sumas for implementation of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Agreement to purchase twelve flood-damaged properties, one of which is in the City of Sumas (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Donovan 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. [AB2024-194](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families to provide funding for the Nurse Family Partnership Program in the amount of \$36,123.01 for a total amended contract amount of \$414,618.60

Donovan 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

7. [AB2024-202](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization to fund the Recovery Navigator Program to enhance LEAD programming in the amount of \$154,000 for a total amended agreement amount of \$666,455

Donovan 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

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2024-178](#) Resolution amending the Flood Control Zone District & Subzones 2024 budget, request no. 2, in the amount of \$564,477 (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Byrd moved that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, answered where the grant funds are from. He stated there are a couple of grants. One is US Department of Transportation money from a Federal grant coming through the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and the other is a Puget Sound Partnership grant. These are part of the grants that the Council has

already approved and this is just a budget amendment to allow Public Works to do the work. He answered whether it is for culvert removal and stated it is.

Scanlon requested that when we are looking at culverts we make sure we are also looking at recreation plans to see if there are any trail plans in the area and whether they could use the WSDOT funds to help build that part of the trail.

Stoyka stated he would take a look at that.

Byrd's motion that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

2. [AB2024-179](#) Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the Unity Street Acquisition Project Fund

Donovan moved that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

Rob Ney, Administrative Services Department Facilities, briefed the Councilmembers on the proposed acquisition. The County leases a portion of one of the buildings and when a different portion of that building was going to be vacated by its tenant, the Port of Bellingham approached the County to see if they were interested in leasing it. The County responded that they would be interested in leasing but would also be interested in purchasing the entire building and the parking lot across the street which also includes a restaurant (Best Chopsticks). The budget is for acquisition and for tenant improvements.

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, stated the other component of this is the 5th Superior Court judge that the State Legislature approved. This acquisition is timed well with some work the County will likely have to do to accommodate the judge and for future space needs.

Ney answered what would happen to the restaurant, and stated right now it is leased, and he does not see any reason, until the County wants to repurpose the land, to not continue that lease.

Schroeder stated the property also includes the parking lot and there are a lot of spots. They are purchasing it from Mt. Baker Theater. He answered

whether the idea is that the Superior Court courtroom would go in this building and stated that is correct. Ney answered what part of the parking lot is part of the acquisition, and stated it is just to the alley.

Scanlon stated parking is a poor use of space in prime downtown land and he hopes they look to build in that space. He stated they could also look at having mixed-use space there.

Galloway stated they had previously discussed an adjacent facility and asked whether there has been any further inquiry into that one, and Schroeder stated it would be very costly for the County to repurpose it (a bank) into a usable space for offices. He answered whether the County is limiting itself by calling this project-based budget by a specific name.

Donovan's motion that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 0

3. [AB2024-180](#) Ordinance amending the 2024 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 5 in the amount of \$9,827,008

Donovan moved that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

Shamika Brooks, Health and Community Services, answered a question about the Health Department request “to fund LHJ Covid-19 grant (#4592)” regarding COVID-19 vaccinations and what the plan is for the year for COVID-19 vaccinations. She stated the request is for spending authority for an existing grant and is mainly to support staff through July 2024.

She answered what will happen beyond that date and stated they have not received word whether the funding is going to be extended.

Stremmler stated the Executive request to “Reappropriate Food Bank funding from grant proceeds (#4597)” is amazing. He has asked staff about the history of the County pitching in for the food banks beyond American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money.

Scanlon stated he was invited to visit the Blaine Food Bank and spoke about the volunteers' commitment.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, answered whether any of this

\$500,970 could also be used for a request from the county-wide food bank or whether that is separate. She stated they do not have a proposal to meet the gap in the requested funding but they are about ready to release a Healthy Children's Fund Request for Proposal (RFP) for basic needs and supplies and the food banks could apply for that.

Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services, answered questions about the Executive request "to fund Deputy Executive (#4601)." He answered whether there is a plan in place for how responsibilities would be split between the two Deputy Executives, whether they would have the same status and pay range, and whether there is a plan to include intergovernmental relations as a role of one of the positions.

Donovan's motion that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Galloway, and Donovan

Nay: 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 10:38 a.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

