

**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

VIRTUAL MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY; ENDS NO
LATER THAN 2:15 P.M.

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

1:25 PM

Virtual Meeting

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 11:10 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

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

Absent: None

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2020-219](#) Discussion and update on strategies and other items related to COVID-19 (Council and Health Board)

Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director, updated the Councilmembers on the following:

- Increases in COVID-19 cases: The Health Department hopes that it is a short-term spike.
- Statistics for Whatcom County on where the virus have been contracted, with the majority coming from within a household or at social events.
- Progress on a COVID-19 vaccine, the roles of the State and the Health Department in administration, and a phased approach of administration starting with priority populations.

She discussed with Councilmembers concerns about unforeseen consequences of the vaccine, work with Peace Health on medical search planning, mental health services associated with the COVID-19 crisis, and volunteer fatigue. She stated the community is needing able volunteers.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, and Lautenbach discussed with Councilmembers an idea to identify and recognize key volunteers who have served in the last six months and where people can go to see volunteer opportunities online.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

2. [AB2020-523](#) Discussion of proposed ordinance designating a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) Program within Whatcom County

Donovan briefed the Councilmembers on the role of the County in administration of the program and the impact it would have on County Government. The following people also spoke:

- Rebecca Xczar, County Assessor
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

They discussed the impacts as listed in the Municipal Research CPACER Information document (on file), looking at model documents, how to collect funds associated with the program, where the program should be housed in the County, ways to make up for costs of staff time, and whether collaborating with other counties for administration of the program could save money.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, discussed with Councilmembers when the next committee meeting will start.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription