

Whatcom County Council (Special)

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

VIRTUAL MEETING - VIEW ONLINE

Monday, June 1, 2020

10 AM

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 10:02 a.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

OTHER ITEMS

1. [AB2020-232](#) Resolution of the Whatcom County Health Board applying for variance under Governor Inslee's Safe Start Washington Plan to move to Phase 2

Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director, briefed the Council on the status of the application to move to Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's Safe Start Washington Plan. She stated there would be an update to the language of the resolution since the County would no longer be applying for a variance as the resolution states.

The following people answered questions:
 - Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director
 - Chris Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
 - Karen Frakes, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
 - Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
They and Councilmembers discussed whether new cases of COVID-19 from the weekend enter into the application, whether the number of rooms available in quarantine facilities is aspirational, testing benchmarks and metrics, why the County has to apply for Phase 2 if the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Healthy order is no longer in effect, what order is currently in place that says the County has to apply to move to a phase, negotiations in process for 51 additional rooms at a second isolation and quarantine facility, the Governor's Safe Start - Stay Health order now in effect, why death counts for Whatcom County have changed, what the trigger point is for opening a second quarantine and isolation facility, a recent determination by a Chelan County judge not to rule on a case because the proper plaintiff (the Health Board which would have jurisdiction) was not in place, how many rooms are being used at the current isolation and quarantine facility, and whether all the rooms there have been rehabilitated for that purpose.

Lautenbach stated the Council will receive a full packet this afternoon so

they will have time to review it before their meeting tomorrow.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, and Cathy Halka, Legislative Analyst, went over the schedule for the June 2, 2020 Meetings.

Lautenbach answered a question about who on the Council needs to sign the resolution requesting to move to Phase 2.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

- 2. [AB2020-233](#) Resolution applying for variance under Governor Inslee’s Safe Start Washington Plan to move to Phase 2

This agenda item was WITHDRAWN.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription