

# **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  
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

**Thursday, November 5, 2020**

**9:30 AM**

**Council Chambers**

### **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 9:30 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

**Discussion**

1. [AB2020-484](#) Discussion of the County Executive’s recommended 2021-2022 Biennium Budget  
The following departments briefed the Councilmembers on their respective budgets and answered questions:

**WSU Extension**

**Michael Wallace, WSU Extension Interim Chair**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 00:02:16

**Sheriff and Jail**

**Bill Elfo, Sheriff**

**Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

**Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department**

**Wendy Jones, Sheriff's Office**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 00:08:36

**Superior Court**

**Dave Reynolds, Superior Court**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 00:16:56

**Juvenile Court**

**Dave Reynolds, Superior Court**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 01:27:41

**Public Works**

**Jon Hutchings, Public Works Department Director**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 01:42:35

**Prosecuting Attorney**

**Eric J. Richey, Prosecuting Attorney**

**Vanessa Martin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 01:50:56

The meeting went into recess and reconvened at 1 p.m.

**Parks and Recreation**

**Mike McFarlane, Parks and Recreation Department Director**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 02:08:17

**Health**

**Kathleen Roy, Health Department**

**Erika Lautenbach, Health Department Director**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

**Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 02:09:19

**Administrative Services**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

**Karen Goens, Human Resources**

**Brad Bennett, Finance Manager**

**Perry Rice, Information Technology**

**Rob Ney, Facilities Projects and Operations Manager**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 02:25:40

**Executive**

**Satpal Sidhu, County Executive**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 02:44:53

**Non-Departmental**

**Satpal Sidhu, County Executive**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 04:03:37

**Law Library**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 04:19:00

**Miscellaneous**

**Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office**

Approximate Video Timestamp: 04:20:58

**Discussion and Formulation of Budget Recommendations**

Councilmembers decided to discuss AB2020-521 and moved to that item. They came back to AB2020-484 after that discussion.

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

### **Discussion and Possible Action**

1. [AB2020-521](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between G6 Hospitality Properties, LLC and Whatcom County to extend the lease term through February 28, 2021 with the option to extend an additional three months through May 30, 2021 at an increased of \$10,000 in the monthly base rent  
  
Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office, briefed the Councilmembers.

*Buchanan moved* that the contract be authorized. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

The following people also spoke and answered questions:

- Brad Bennett, Administrative Services Department
- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Councilmembers discussed and the speakers answered questions about the lease, how many rooms are available and how many the contract designates for housing solutions and other purposes, The cost of operating expenses and lease per month, how many rooms had to be remodeled because of contamination, whether beds are still in a storage unit, what upgrades the County made to the rooms, what would be the earliest someone could be in place to manage the facility, whether they are using the proposed 15 rooms for a winter shelter or a temporary housing solution, who might stay there, whether the County has a warming shelter at this time, how many rooms could have been rented out and how it was determined to only utilize 15 rooms, whether it would be more cost effective to use hotel vouchers at a different hotel for these families, who owns G6 Hospitality Properties, LLC, who pays for the utilities, whether there were other facilities that negotiated with the County, whether the lease extension can be billed to CARES Act money and how a potential future stimulus package might play into it, whether the State's requirement to have an isolation and quarantine facility is still in place, whether the County could get out of this contract, who negotiated the contract, and whether they should look at other options.

Byrd stated he would like to table the motion to authorize and to request the Executive's Office to try to get more rooms and bring back an updated agreement and a management plan to the Council on Tuesday.

Councilmembers discussed the suggestion and other options that should be considered.

**Byrd moved** to table the motion to authorize and to request that Executive's Office negotiate for full usage of the facility. The motion was seconded by Kershner.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the motion.

The motion to table carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Browne, Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Frazey, and Kershner

**Nay:** 1 - Donovan

Byrd answered a question about his request of the Executive's Office.

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

1. [AB2020-484](#) Discussion of the County Executive's recommended 2021-2022 Biennium Budget  
Councilmembers returned to this discussion.

Kershner requested to receive more information about why the decisions were made to not accept Additional Service Requests (ASRs) and the following people spoke:

- Tyler Schroeder, Executive's Office
- Doug Chadwick, Undersheriff

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, and Schroeder discussed with Councilmembers the budget approval process and how to proceed from here, and the budget for the Conservation District Firewise program.

### **Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription