

**Whatcom County
Council Planning and Development Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Final

VIRTUAL MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLIER/LATER THAN 2:55 P.M.;
ENDS NO LATER THAN 5 P.M. (TO PARTICIPATE, VISIT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010)

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

2:55 PM

Virtual Meeting

COUNCILMEMBERS

Rud Browne
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. in a virtual meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Rud Browne, Ben Elenbaas and Todd Donovan

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2021-097](#) Discussion of a proposed ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 15 (Buildings & Construction) to adopt by reference the 2018 editions of the International Building and other related codes

The following staff briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions:

- Cliff Strong, Planning and Development Services Department
- Curtis Metz, Planning and Development Services Department

They answered questions about the definition of a tiny home, how people can vest permits back to the 2015 codes, main changes between the 2015 and 2018 energy code, the ways to earn credits, the fire wall section, the cost of the credits and whether the new energy code would increase the cost of construction, and the cost for improvements for fire department vehicle access.

Browne moved to request that Planning and Development Services staff work out what the average sized house is that people are asking to build and use that to do a calculation for how many credits would be needed, the lowest-cost way to reach the amount of energy credits to comply with the new regulations and what the cost would be.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and staff continued to answer questions.

Browne restated the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Browne, Donovan and Elenbaas

Nay: 0

Staff continued to answer questions about changes to the fire code and how they relate to agricultural buildings, scheduling another committee discussion to get additional information before the public hearing, and questions on tiny homes as detached dwelling units.

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

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

Browne asked whether there is any thing already written up on the cost of these categories that is prepared by the state.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Ben Elenbaas-via email 2/11/2021

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Ben Elenbaas, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

SIGNED COPY ON FILE