

**Whatcom County
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

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



Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, August 9, 2022
10:45 AM
Hybrid Meeting**

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 12:40 P.M.; MAY BEGIN EARLY
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Tyler Byrd
Carol Frazey
Kathy Kershner

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Dana Brown-Davis, C.M.C.

Call To Order

Committee Chair Tyler Byrd called the meeting to order at 1 ap.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Tyler Byrd, Carol Frazey, and Kathy Kershner

Absent: None

Also Present: Barry Buchanan, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, and Kaylee Galloway

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2022-408](#) Ordinance amending the 2022 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$250,000

Frazey moved that the Ordinance be RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION.

The following people answered questions:

- Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services
- Jed Holmes, Community Outreach Facilitator

They answered where this money is coming from and how it will be used, who will administer the grant, whether the names of the refugees this will serve are known, what the process is for the grant administration, whether the 110 individuals to be served are already living in Whatcom County, whether this money is being used to help this particular organization leverage more money for resettlement programs, whether the program is over once the money is gone, and whether the refugees are also getting support and help from the federal immigration program.

Kershner stated she is leery to start importing people into our community when the people who already live here cannot buy a house and she spoke about her concerns with the program.

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

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2022-423](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the United States Department of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to jointly fund continued stream gaging stations in the Nooksack River, in the amount of \$ 98,502.00 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Kershner moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, answered whether these are new gages, whether the County's portion is from the flood fund, whether this is an ongoing cost, and the reason for the 4.6 percent increase.

Kershner's motion that the Contract (FCZDBS) be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2022-442](#) Resolution in the matter of the sale of surplus personal property and setting a date for public hearing, pursuant to WCC 1.10

Frazey moved that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, answered whether they need to recommend a date for a public hearing to the full Council tonight.

Frazey's motion that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2022-447](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Amendment of the Economic Development Investment Program Interlocal Grant Agreement between Whatcom County and Port of Bellingham for the Rural Broadband construction project

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

The following people briefed the Councilmembers and answered questions:

- Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services
- Gina Stark, Port of Bellingham

They answered why a change in location is proposed, whether the project is being moved to an area that is not currently being served by Ziplly Fiber, whether they already approved \$2 million for the project, whether the County or the Port of Bellingham (Port) will always own the infrastructure, whether PogoZone will own the infrastructure in 25 years and whether that is already in the contract, whether there were public meetings that were held to determine that these two new locations would be better sites for this project, who participates in the CERB (Community Economic Revitalization Board) and whether it is a state or local board, whether the Port is working on other broadband projects, whether this project is EDI (Economic Development Investment)-funded or just CERB-funded, whether the Port is getting money for projects from CERB as well as EDI, and what sort of protections are in place to ensure that in 25 years (after the life of the Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU)) PogoZone will continue to allow other Internet Service Providers (ISPs) to service.

Frazey's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2022-449](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to operate the Whatcom Homeless Service Center in the amount of \$282,239 for a total amended contract amount of \$2,507,248

***Frazey moved* that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.**

Chris D'Onofrio, Health Department, answered where the money to increase funding for the Whatcom Homeless Service Center comes from, why they have these routine increases, and where this particular \$282,239 is coming from.

Councilmembers and staff discussed the amount of the funding.

Frazey's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 0

6. [AB2022-450](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Grant Agreement between Whatcom County and Port of Bellingham for additional EDI funding to support the rural broadband project, in the amount of \$2,000,000

Frazey moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.

The following people answered questions:

- Tyler Schroeder, Director of Administrative Services
- Gina Stark, Port of Bellingham

They discussed with Councilmembers whether this request is in addition to the \$2 million that the Council has already approved, whether the Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) with PogoZone has already been signed by the Port of Bellingham, a concern about infrastructure going to a business after 25 years, whether any revenue generated would go to PogoZone after the 25 years, why the County would not maintain it and keep it themselves, whether the County could contract for the service with PogoZone in the future, whether it is possible to assess as they get close to the 25-year mark whether they want to transfer ownership or maintain the property, and asking in the future how we are retaining as much public control over public infrastructure and insuring open access.

Frazey's motion that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

Byrd stated they would be pulling Consent Agenda item number five (AB2022-424) from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration and asked if there were any other items that the Committee would like to pull.

Frazey stated she has a question on Consent Agenda item number four (AB2022-421).

Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council, stated that item number four has two substitutes and it is the second substitute they will be acting on.

Frazey moved to approve Consent Agenda items one through four and six through twelve.

Wendy Jones, Sheriff's Office, answered a question about the difference between the original proposed contract and the substitute for item number four.

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

1. [AB2022-370](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Commerce for refugee stabilization services in the amount of \$250,000

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

2. [AB2022-415](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a residential lease agreement between Whatcom County and Jarek Olivetti and Roxanne Martin to reside at 677 North Lake Samish Road, for a monthly rent of \$1,709

Frazey moved that the Agreement be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

3. [AB2022-418](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Point Roberts Park & Recreation District No. 1, for use of Lighthouse Marine Park to operate a kayak rental program

Frazey moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

4. [AB2022-421](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and Snohomish County for the use of up to 45 Snohomish County jail beds in the amount of \$1,200,000.00

Frazey moved that the SUBSTITUTE Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

5. [AB2022-424](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to build a health, resource, and service navigation system that will provide timely connection of parents and children, pre-natal to five years, to a range of protective and supportive services, in the amount of \$207,350 for a total amended contract amount of \$285,147

This item was considered separately. See below.

6. [AB2022-433](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and ESA to implement the Coastal and Riverine Compound Flood Vulnerability and Risk Assessment project, in the amount of \$ 100,000.00

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following

vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

7. [AB2022-436](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interagency Agreement Amendment between Whatcom County and the Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts to increase reimbursements of Blake decision legal costs by \$787,751 for a total amended amount of \$2,578,372

Frazey moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR

AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

8. [AB2022-438](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Health for the delivery and funding of various public health services in the amount of \$2,651,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$9,430,654

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

9. [AB2022-439](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Abatement and Decontamination Specialists to remediate the threat of public health hazards on properties with long-term solid waste violations, in the amount of \$50,000

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

10. [AB2022-445](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Kulshan Community Land Trust to support acquisition of land for affordable housing, in the amount of \$1,250,746.60

Frazey moved that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

11. [AB2022-446](#) Request approval for the County Executive to award Bid #22-14 Rental Rates for Construction Equipment Without Operator to all bidders with the award for each vendor not to exceed \$100,000.00

Frazezy moved that the Bid Award be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

12. [AB2022-448](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interagency Agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement of expenses relating to the Uniform Guardianship Act, in the amount of \$58,428

Frazezy moved that the Interlocal be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 3 - Byrd, Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 0

Absent: 0

Consent Agenda Item Considered Separately

5. [AB2022-424](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to build a health, resource, and service navigation system that will provide timely connection of parents and children, pre-natal to five years, to a range of protective and supportive services, in the amount of \$207,350 for a total amended contract amount of \$285,147

***Frazezy moved* that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION.**

Judy Ziels, Health Department, answered whether this is additional money to the Opportunity Council for this program or still the original money Council approved, whether this is a contract to extend the term and the City of Bellingham is paying the amount, and whether the Opportunity Council has been doing this service for the last six months already.

Frazezy's motion that the Contract be RECOMMENDED FOR

AUTHORIZATION carried by the following vote:

Aye: 2 - Frazey, and Kershner

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Absent: 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 11:24 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Tyler Byrd, Committee Chair

Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription