

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
October 22, 2020**

Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The virtual meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission
3 Chair Kelvin Barton at 6:35 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Kelvin Barton, Robert Bartel, Atul Deshmane, Jim Hansen, Stephen Jackson,
6 Kimberley Lund, Dominic Mocerri, Jon Maberry, Natalie McClendon

7 **Staff Present:** Becky Boxx, Cliff Strong, Matt Aamot, Mark Personius, Tammy Axlund, and
8 Jeremy Rische and Rick Anderson (Information Technology)

9 **Department Update**

10 Mark Personius introduced Tammy Axlund, the new Coordinator who will act as
11 Secretary to the Planning Commission. He stated that she will make it a priority to
12 catch up on the backlog of meeting minutes. He also updated the Commission on the
13 status of the Cherry Point items being discussed at County Council. The Point Roberts
14 code amendment will be introduced at Council on Tuesday, October 27th.

15 **Public Comment**

16 There was no public comment.

17 **Commissioner Comments**

18 Commissioner Deshmane stated that he sat in on the County Council work session on
19 Tuesday for the Cherry Point amendments.

20 Commissioner McClendon stated that it is acceptable and legally defensible for the
21 minutes to contain less detail as long as they include motions, votes, and time codes
22 for the audio, so the public can easily determine which motions carry. Those interested
23 can listen to the audio.

24 Commissioner Hansen reported that he had been in communication with David
25 Stalheim and County Executive Satpal Sidhu regarding issues before the Commission.

26 **Timestamp: 13:00**

27 **Public Participation proposal by Commissioner McClendon**

28 **Commissioner McClendon moved** *To adopt the Public Participation proposal*
29 *contained in the agenda packet, whereby the Planning Commission urges the Whatcom*
30 *County Council to create a citizen advisory body to address the issue of public*
31 *participation in our local government and recommend improvements.*

32 Commissioner McClendon committed to the time and effort needed to move the
33 proposal to the County Council and work with them to make it happen.

34 **Commissioner Maberry seconded.**

35 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Lund,**
36 **Maberry, McClendon, Mocerri; (Ayes-9; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

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1 **Timestamp: 17:00**

2 **Impact Fee proposal by Commissioner Hansen**

3 **Commissioner Hansen made a motion:** *To provide better equity for county tax*
4 *payers and to reduce a financial incentive to rural development, the Planning*
5 *Commission recommends that the County Council docket a proposal to develop an*
6 *impact fee ordinance pursuant to the full extent of RCW 82.02.050-.110*

7 **Commissioner McClendon seconded.**

8 Commissioner Hansen stated the rationale for his proposal.

9 Matt Aamot discussed the October 12th staff memo regarding impact fees and
10 answered questions. He stated that although the County Council adopted an ordinance
11 authorizing collection of school impact fees in 2007, it requires interlocal agreements
12 be developed with the school districts before fees can actually be collected, and this
13 has not been done.

14 Commissioners discussed the motion and several had concerns with approving a
15 proposal to develop an impact fee ordinance, rather than a recommendation for
16 County Council to look into the matter.

17 Commissioner Deshmane asked if Commissioner Hansen would consider a friendly
18 amendment to the motion. Hansen indicated he was agreeable to this as long as the
19 recommendation included more than a commitment to conduct a study.

20 Commissioners continued discussion.

21 **Timestamp: 44:34**

22 **Commissioner McClendon moved** *to amend the original motion to strike the words*
23 *"docket a proposal to develop" and add "consider implementing" into the*
24 *recommendation.*

25 **Hansen accepted this as a friendly amendment.**

26 **Commissioner Deshmane seconded.**

27 Commissioners discussed the motion to amend.

28 **Timestamp: 56:00**

29 **Commissioners voted to amend the original motion.**

30 **Roll Call Vote on the motion to amend: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane,**
31 **Hansen, Jackson, Lund, Maberry, McClendon, Mocerri; (Ayes-9; Nays-0;**
32 **Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

33 **Timestamp: 57:24**

34 **Commissioners voted on the original motion as amended:** *To provide better*
35 *equity for county tax payers and to reduce a financial incentive to rural development,*
36 *the Planning Commission recommends that the County consider implementing an*
37 *impact fee ordinance pursuant to the full extent of RCW 82.02.050-.110*

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1 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Deshmane, Hansen, Lund, McClendon Nays-**
2 **Barton, Jackson, Maberry, Mocerri; (Ayes-5; Nays-4; Abstain-0). The motion**
3 **carried.**

4 **Timestamp: 58:16**

5 **Shoreline Management Plan 2020 Work Session**

6 Cliff Strong provided an overview of the framework of the Shoreline Management Plan
7 (SMP) and explained the system to track revisions. He will add comments to denote
8 which items have been discussed by the Planning Commission. The version in the
9 agenda packet reflects revisions resulting from public comment. Due to budget
10 constraints, there is no longer an outside consultant working on the SMP.

11 Commissioner McClendon volunteered to go through the document, list page numbers
12 with policy changes and provide this to the group.

13 Commissioner Deshmane asked that commissioners send the plan information for
14 review by their connections in the agriculture and construction industries.

15 Commissioner Mocerri reminded the Commission to work off of the 9/10 County Council
16 approved scoping document.

17 **Adjournment**

18 The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM

19 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

20 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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23
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25 _____
Kelvin Barton, Chair

_____ Tammy Axlund, Secretary