

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
September 24, 2020**

Public Hearing and 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 6:30 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

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

7 **Absent:** Kimberley Lund

8 **Staff Present:** Matt Aamot, Mark Personius, Rod Lamb, Tyler Schroeder, Christ
9 Thomsen, Ashley Ubil

10 **Department Update**

11 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), reported that
12 staff had their first meeting with the County Council regarding the recommendations
13 from the Planning Commission on the Cherry Point amendments. Council will script
14 out questions for the industry/environmental working group.

15 Mr. Personius provided a tentative schedule of agenda items for the remaining 2020
16 Planning Commission meetings. He announced that Ashley Ubil, PDS Coordinator and
17 secretary to the Planning Commission, would be leaving PDS for a position in Pierce
18 County. Becky Boxx will fill in as Commission Secretary until the vacant Coordinator
19 position is filled.

20 **Open Session Public Comment**

21 There was no public comment.

22 **Commissioner Comments**

23 Commissioner Deshmane expressed concern at the lack of detail in the package with
24 regards to the Capital Improvement Plan.

25 **Proposed Six-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Whatcom County
26 Facilities 2021-2026**

27 **Timestamp: 11:31**

28 Matt Aamot, Senior Planner in PDS, provided background information on Growth
29 Management Act provisions, and gave an overview of the Capital Improvement
30 Program and process for approval. Tyler Schroeder, Deputy Executive assisted in
31 answering commissioners' questions.

32 **a) Public Hearing Regarding CIP**

33 **Timestamp: 1:00:26**

34 The public hearing opened. No one wished to speak on the issue, and the Chair closed
35 the public hearing.

36 **b) CIP Work Session**

37 Staff described the changes chapter by chapter.

38 Rod Lamb, Parks Senior Design & Development Supervisor and Christ Thomsen, Parks
39 Operations Manager, answered commissioners' questions regarding County Parks'

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1 projects; and Tyler Schroeder continued to respond to questions about the other
2 sections of the CIP.

3 **Timestamp: 1:11:27**

4 **Commissioner Barton moved** to add "beach restoration and berm project" and
5 remove "the" within the parenthesis on the last line of the first paragraph under
6 *Proposed Improvement Projects on page F-7.*

7 **Commissioner McClendon seconded.**

8 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
9 **McClendon, Mocerì; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

10 Commissioners continued to work their way through the document chapter by
11 chapter.

12 **Timestamp: 2:08:09**

13 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to delete the new jail from under Adult
14 Corrections in Chapter 7, and delete the expenditure for "Sheriff's Office satellite
15 office" in Chapter 5.

16 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

17 Commissioners discussed the motion.

18 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Deshmane, Jackson; Nays -Barton, Maberry,**
19 **McClendon, Mocerì; Abstain-Hansen; (Ayes-3; Nays-4; Abstain-1). The motion**
20 **failed.**

21 **Timestamp: 2:21:28**

22 **Commissioner Maberry moved** to remove the reference to a jail and replace it with
23 "public health, safety, and justice facility" under Adult Corrections in Chapter 7.

24 **Commissioner Mocerì seconded.**

25 **Commissioner Deshmane made a friendly amendment** to make "facility" plural.

26 Commissioners Maberry and Mocerì accepted the friendly amendment.

27 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Maberry, McClendon,**
28 **Mocerì; Nays-Jackson; (Ayes-7; Nays-1; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

29 **Timestamp: 2:25:45**

30 **Commissioner Mocerì moved** to remove "debt" and "new sales tax" and replace
31 them with "investigate funding options" in Table 13 of Chapter 7.

32 **Commissioner Maberry seconded.**

33 **Commissioner Jackson moved to amend the motion** to replace "debt" and "new
34 sales tax" with "investigate alternative funding sources outside of debt and sales tax."

35 **Commissioner Deshmane seconded.**

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1 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
2 **McClendon, Mocerì; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion to amend**
3 **carried.**

4 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
5 **McClendon, Mocerì; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The amended motion**
6 **carried.**

7 **Timestamp: 2:35:57**

8 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to recommend the Findings of Fact and Exhibit A
9 - the 6-Year Capital Improvement Program Update, and repeal Exhibit B.

10 **Commissioner Maberry seconded.**

11 **Commissioner Deshmane moved to amend the motion** to add an item number
12 25 under Facts and Findings that says that the Planning Commission requests that the
13 County Council carefully consider sources of funding and budgetary constraints.

14 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

15 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
16 **McClendon, Mocerì; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion to amend**
17 **carried.**

18 **Commissioners voted on the motion** to recommend the Findings of Fact and
19 Exhibit A - the 6-Year Capital Improvement Program Update, and repeal Exhibit B.

20 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Maberry, McClendon, Mocerì; Nays-**
21 **Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson; (Ayes-5; Nays-3; Abstain-0). The motion**
22 **carried.**

23 **Proposed Public Participation Plan for Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan**
24 **and Development Regulation Amendments**

25 **Timestamp 2:41:19**

26 Matt Aamot, provided background on the Growth Management Act mandate for a
27 public participation plan and summarized the content of Whatcom County's plan.

28 **a) Public Hearing Regarding Proposed Public Participation Plan**

29 **Timestamp: 3:00:43**

30 Eddy Ury provided public comment. Commissioners discussed his comments and
31 asked questions.

32 **Timestamp: 3:12:35**

33 With no one else from the public wishing to speak, the Chair closed the public hearing.

34 **b) Public Participation Plan Work Session**

35 **Timestamp: 3:14:38**

36 **Commissioner Mocerì moved** to add "and on the County website" after "hearing in
37 the newspaper" in bullet 3 of 2.3 on page 2-6.

38 **Commissioner Hansen seconded.**

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1 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
2 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

3 *Timestamp: 3:17:44*

4 **Commissioner Maberry moved** to revert to the existing language regarding public
5 *hearings for both level 1 and level 2 items in Section 4.2.1 (5).*

6 **Commissioner Bartel seconded.**

7 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
8 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

9 *Timestamp: 3:30:28*

10 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to add a paragraph numbered 1.2 on page 1-3 to
11 *say "Planning and Development staff should identify methods for remote public*
12 *participation for all public hearings (for example, online or telephonic participation).*

13 **Commissioner Maberry seconded.**

14 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
15 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

16 *Timestamp: 3:38:35*

17 **Commissioner Hansen moved** to approve and recommend the Public Participation
18 *Plan to County Council as amended.*

19 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

20 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry,**
21 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

22 *Timestamp: 3:40:41*

23 **Commissioner Hansen moved** for the next Planning Commission meeting: to
24 *mitigate the burden of development costs on county taxpayers, we petition County*
25 *Council to docket an ordinance establishing a comprehensive set of development*
26 *impact fees in compliance with applicable state law.*

27 **Commissioner Deshmane seconded.**

28 **The motion and the second were withdrawn** with the understanding that the
29 subject be discussed at the next available Commission meeting, October 22, 2020.

30 **Adjournment**

31 The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

32 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

33 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Kelvin Barton, Chair

Tammy Axlund, Secretary