



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
September 8, 2022

Work Session

1

1 **Call to Order**

2 The meeting was called to order by Whatcom County Planning Commission Chair,
3 Kelvin Barton at 6:31 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

5 **Present:** Robert Bartel, Kelvin Barton, Atul Deshmane, Jim Hansen, Kimberley Lund,
6 Dominic Mocerri, Scott Van Dalen

7 **Absent:** Stephen Jackson, Julie Jefferson

8 **Staff Present:** Matt Aamot, Craig Ostrom, Steve Roberge, Royce Buckingham, and
9 Tammy Axlund

10 **Department Update**

11 Steve Roberge, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS),
12 announced the Watershed Overlay amendments approved by the Planning Commission
13 will be introduced to County Council on October 13th. Upcoming agenda items for the
14 Planning Commission are the Capital Facilities Plan and Buildable Lands.

15 **Open Session Public Comment**

16 Kevin Bardosh and Danica Thiesen provided public comment.

17 Matt Aamot, PDS Senior Planner, invited Royce Buckingham to provide legal input
18 regarding recommendations from the public comment session.

19 **Commissioner Comments**

20 Commissioner Deshmane stated that he met with Kevin Bardosh, with several people
21 from the Geneva neighborhood, and with an electrical engineer in the field of wireless
22 communication. He identified fiber as being the future, and noted that governments
23 are investing in fiber, not wireless

24 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

25 **Timestamp: 32:52**

26 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to approve the meeting minutes from July 28, 2022.

27 **Commissioner Mocerri seconded.**

28 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Mocerri, Van Dalen;**
29 **Abstain-Lund; (Ayes-6; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

30 **Work Session: Proposed amendments to Whatcom County Code (WCC) 20.13,**
31 **WCC 20.82, WCC 20.83, WCC 20.97, and WCC 22.05 relating to personal**
32 **wireless service facilities**

33 **Timestamp: 34:16**

34 Matt Aamot proposed adding the July and September Work Sessions to the Findings of
35 Fact. Commissioners and staff discussed Exhibit A section 20.13.085 as a probable
36 location for inserting a fourth bullet to incorporate language discussed after the public
37 comment session, if moved and approved by the Commission.



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1 **Timestamp: 38:25**

2 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to add bullet #4 to state that Whatcom County
3 will consider all health affects it legally can, unless preempted.

4 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

5 Commissioners discussed, and Royce Buckingham responded to Commissioners'
6 questions.

7 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes- Barton, Deshmane; Nays-Bartel, Hansen, Lund, Mocerri,**
8 **Van Dalen; (Ayes-2; Nays-5; Abstain-0). The motion failed.**

9 **Timestamp: 57:57**

10 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** to add a preamble stating: Whatcom County
11 recognizes its requirement to provide for communication services and a commitment to
12 the health of its citizens.

13 **Commissioner Bartel seconded.**

14 Commissioners discussed the motion.

15 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Lund, Van Dalen; Nays-**
16 **Hansen, Mocerri; (Ayes-5; Nays-2; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

17 **Timestamp: 1:14:34**

18 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** that Type 1 applications for wireless
19 communication facilities provide public notice.

20 Commissioners and staff discussed the motion, FCC rules regarding time frames for
21 approval, and permitted uses. Staff responded to questions.

22 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

23 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Lund, Mocerri, Van**
24 **Dalen; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

25 Commissioner Deshmane recommended a rationale statement which was accepted by
26 the commission.

27 **Timestamp: 1:43:24**

28 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** that for personal wireless service facilities, notice
29 shall be sent to all property owners within 1,000 feet of the external boundaries of the
30 subject property as shown by the records of the Assessor.

31 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

32 Commissioners discussed the motion.

33 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Lund, Mocerri, Van**
34 **Dalen; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**



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3

1 **Timestamp: 2:02:51**

2 **Commissioner Deshmane moved** that notices relating to personal wireless service
3 facilities shall state the federal preemption of local regulation of radio frequency
4 emissions.

5 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

6 Commissioners discussed the motion as well as a rationale to present to County
7 Council.

8 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Lund, Van Dalen;**
9 **Nays-Moceri; (Ayes-6; Nays-1; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

10 **Timestamp: 2:11:24**

11 **Commissioner Lund moved** to accept the code as amended and the findings of fact.

12 **Commissioner Deshmane seconded.**

13 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Deshmane, Hansen, Lund, Moceri, Van**
14 **Dalen; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

15 **Adjournment**

16 The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

17 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

18 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

19 
20 _____
Kelvin Barton, Chair



Tammy Axlund, Secretary