

**TO ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS:  
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR  
MAY 8, 2018**

**ADDITIONAL INTRODUCTION ITEM:**

- 8. ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.126,  
CREATING THE WHATCOM COUNTY BUSINESS AND COMMERCE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AB2018-132A)**

**DISTRIBUTED AT 4 P.M. ON MAY 8, 2018**

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**ESTABLISHING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 2.126, CREATING THE  
WHATCOM COUNTY BUSINESS AND COMMERCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County has numerous advisory boards and commissions to advise the Council and the Executive on a great range of matters; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no board or commission with the express goal of providing business and industry perspective on regulations and policies; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County is home to numerous businesses and industries that provide important jobs and contribute meaningfully to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County businesses have different needs to be successful in a wide variety of economic sectors ranging from individual professionals and service providers, small businesses, medium-sized businesses, and large businesses competing nationally and internationally; and

**WHEREAS**, Whatcom County seeks to be a place where new businesses are encouraged to start and existing businesses recognize the value of remaining and expanding, creating jobs, and increasing the resources available for all members of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions of county government can have positive and negative effects on the overall business environment and on individual operations; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure the appropriate balance between the interests of the community and the interests of businesses is met, it is critical that business and industry have a voice in policies and regulations that may impact them.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Whatcom County Council that Whatcom County Code 2.126 is hereby established, creating the Whatcom County Business and Commerce Committee as outlined in Exhibit A to this ordinance.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rud Browne, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WHATCOM COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

\_\_\_\_\_  
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jack Louws, County Executive

( ) Approved      ( ) Denied

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## EXHIBIT A

### CHAPTER 2.126 Business and Commerce Advisory Committee

**Sections:**

<b>2.126.010</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>2.126.020</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
<b>2.126.030</b>	<b>Function</b>
<b>2.126.040</b>	<b>Membership</b>
<b>2.126.050</b>	<b>Organization - Meetings</b>

**2.126.010 Established.**

The Whatcom County Business and Commerce Advisory Committee is hereby established.

**2.126.020 Purpose.**

The committee will advise the Whatcom County Council on issues, including regulations and policies that could impact local businesses, industry, or economic development.

**2.126.030 Function.**

The committee will report directly to the County Council as necessary to carry out the following functions:

- A. Review and provide recommendations on comprehensive plans, regulations, economic development efforts and on proposals which directly impact business and economic conditions in Whatcom County; and
- B. Assist the county and provide recommendations on efforts to improve business conditions, environment and infrastructure; and
- C. Assist and develop recommendations for comprehensive economic development efforts and other issues impacting business in Whatcom County.
- D. Develop recommendations and strategies for ensuring the county applies a client-focused approach to supporting businesses with regulations, permitting, and planning.

**2.126.040 Membership.**

- A. The committee shall be composed of 15 voting members serving four year terms.
- B. The following designated officials:
  - 1. One member of the Whatcom County Council;
  - 2. City of Bellingham Mayor or designee
  - 3. Port of Bellingham Executive Director or designee; and
  - 4. One representative from the small cities, designated by the Small Cities Caucus.
- C. The County Council shall appoint one member representing for-profit entities in each of the following industries:
  - 1. Internet technology;
  - 2. Manufacturing;
  - 3. Food processing;
  - 4. Recreation;
  - 5. Retail;
  - 6. Marine trades; and
  - 7. Commercial real estate.

- D. The County Council shall also appoint:
  - 1. Two members representing for-profit business entities in any industry, including those listed in subsection C; and
  - 2. Two members representing the county's institutions of higher education (Western Washington University, Whatcom Community College, The Northwest Indian College, and Bellingham Technical College).
- E. No two appointed members may represent or be employed by the same company or organization.
- F. The term of office for appointed members shall be four years; provided that the terms of those first appointed shall be staggered so that five will be appointed for two years and six will be appointed for four years.

**2.126.050 Organization – Meetings.**

- A. Meetings of the committee shall be open and accessible to the public and shall be subject to the Open Public Meetings Act.
- B. The committee shall determine its own meeting schedule but shall meet at least four times per year.
- C. At every meeting, the committee will schedule an open session to take public comment on local business issues. Written records of meetings, resolutions, findings, and recommendations shall be kept and such records shall be public.
- D. The committee shall adopt its own rules and procedures for the conduct of business.
- E. The committee shall elect a chairperson from among its members who shall preside at its meetings.
- F. The committee shall comply with Whatcom County Charter Section 4.20, Qualifications, and with Chapter 2.03 WCC, Boards and Commissions.