

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
October 8, 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 6:31 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

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

7 **Absent:** Atul Deshmane, Dominic Mocerì

8 **Staff Present:** Cliff Strong, Mark Personius, Nick Smith, Ashley Ubil , and Jeremy
9 Rische and Rick Anderson (Information Technology)

10 **Department Update**

11 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), gave a brief
12 outline of the agenda for the next Planning Commission meeting. He announced that
13 County Council would look at Planning Commission recommendations for the 6-Year
14 Capital Improvement Program, Public Participation Plan, and the Countywide Planning
15 Policy on Tuesday; and would hold a work session with stakeholders for Cherry Point
16 Amendments on October 20th.

17 **Open Session Public Comment**

18 There was no public comment.

19 **Commissioner Comments**

20 Commissioner McClendon read into the record, a motion the Planning Commission will
21 discuss at their October 22nd meeting: *The Planning Commission urges the Whatcom*
22 *County Council to create a citizen advisory body to address the issue of public*
23 *participation in our local government and recommend improvements. Here is a partial*
24 *list of topics we hope this advisory body would address:*

25 1) *Effectiveness of traditional methods of "notice" in light of the changing ways*
26 *individual's access news and information.*

27 2) *Needs and opportunities for public education on the issues addressed by local*
28 *government so that citizens can be more effective in their participation.*

29 3) *The use of remote meeting technologies to increase ease of participation beyond*
30 *the current public health crisis.*

31 4) *The mechanics of navigating and accessing policy and legislation on the county*
32 *website.*

33 5) *The public comment process and accessibility.*

34 6) *Evaluation of all public participation processes and procedures through an equity*
35 *lens.*

36 Commissioner Hansen read into the record, a motion the Planning Commission
37 will discuss at their October 22nd meeting: *To provide better equity for county tax*
38 *payers and to reduce a financial incentive to rural development, the Planning*
39 *Commission recommends that the County Council docket a proposal to develop an*
40 *impact fee ordinance pursuant to the full extent of RCW 82.02.050.110*

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1 **Proposed Amendments to WCC 20.72 (Point Roberts Special District)**

2 **Timestamp: 15:48**

3 Cliff Strong, PDS Senior Planner, acknowledged the partnership of the Point Roberts
4 Community Advisory Committee (PRCAC), who worked with staff for over a year on the
5 proposed amendments to Whatcom County Code (WCC) 20.72. He then provided a
6 staff report outlining the proposed amendments. Mr. Strong stated that PDS believes
7 the changes are consistent with the subarea plan, and recommends approval.

8 Mr. Personius provided the backstory as to why these code amendments are being
9 proposed.

10 **a) Public Hearing for Proposed Amendments to WCC 20.72**

11 **Timestamp: 28:24**

12 The public hearing opened and following individuals provided public comment:

Stephen Wolff
Allison Calder

Stephen Falk
Thomas O'Brien

13 **Timestamp: 1:10:20**

14 The public hearing closed.

15 **b) Work Session for Proposed Amendments to WCC 20.72**

16 Commissioners discussed the issue and asked questions of staff and community
17 members.

18 **Timestamp: 1:35:04**

19 **Commissioner Hansen moved** that the Planning Commission recommend County
20 Council approval of the proposed amendments to Whatcom County Code 20.72 based
21 on the findings of fact.

22 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

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

25 **Adjournment**

26 **Timestamp: 1:36:26**

27 The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

28 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

29 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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Kelvin Barton, Chair

Tammy Axlund, Secretary