



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
October 14, 2021**

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 6:32 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

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

7 **Absent:** Atul Deshmane, Kimberley Lund

8 **Staff Present:** Cliff Strong, Amy Keenan, Mark Personius, and Tammy Axlund

9 **Department Update**

10 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided an  
11 update on department operations including the forthcoming transition to new permit  
12 software; the status of permit processing; and information about the recently hired  
13 PDS management: Natural Resources Manager, Jon-Paul Shannahan, and Assistant  
14 Director, Steve Roberge. He then apprised the group of the agenda items tentatively  
15 scheduled for the next few meetings.

16 **Open Session Public Comment**

17 James MacRae provided public comment.

18 **Commissioner Comments**

19 Commissioner McClendon provided an update on the Public Participation Survey. There  
20 are 525 responses so far, and it is open through October. The committee is starting to  
21 write their report to Council. The goal is to finish by year end.

22 Commissioner Hansen reported that he spoke to Elisa Steele, Executive Sidhu, Eric  
23 Hirst, and Council Member Donovan about matters that may eventually come before  
24 the Planning Commission.

25 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

26 **Timestamp: 19:52**

27 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to approve the meeting minutes from September 23,  
28 2021, as presented.

29 **Commissioner McClendon seconded.**

30 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Maberry, McClendon, Mocerì;**  
31 **Abstain-Jackson; (Ayes-6; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

32 **Marijuana Code Amendments**

33 Cliff Strong, PDS Senior Planner, introduced Amy Keenan, PDS Senior Planner, and  
34 provided background on the work on the marijuana code amendments to date, then  
35 briefly summarized the proposed draft regulations, highlighting the changes since the  
36 last Planning Commission meeting.

37 **Public Hearing**

38 **Timestamp: 33:04**



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1 The following individuals provided public comment: James MacRae, Nick Cihlar,  
2 Danielle Rosellison, Todd Baker, David Haggith, Rosemary Vanbeek, Eliza Steele

3 **Work Session**

4 **Timestamp: 58:27**

5 Commissioner McClendon corrected a misunderstanding that came up in the Public  
6 Comment Session: that the Planning Commission was considering marijuana  
7 agriculture.

8 Mr. Strong confirmed that under State law marijuana is not considered agriculture.

9 Commissioners continued discussion on the proposed regulations.

10 **Timestamp: 1:13:36**

11 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to adopt the Findings of Fact and Exhibit A  
12 *Marijuana Code Amendments and recommend to Council.*

13 **Commissioner Hansen seconded.**

14 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Maberry, McClendon; Nays-**  
15 **Jackson, Mocerri; (Ayes-5; Nays-2; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

16 **Timestamp: 1:26:56**

17 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to have Council consider funding enforcement of  
18 *production or processing through a business license structure.*

19 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

20 Commissioners discussed clarification of the motion and offered friendly amendments.

21 **Commissioner Bartel withdrew his motion** in favor of the following new motion.

22 **Commissioner Maberry moved** to have Council consider funding enforcement of  
23 *production or processing of marijuana through the issuance of business licenses.*

24 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

25 Cliff Strong verified that the proposed rules do not affect fiber hemp.

26 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry, McClendon;**  
27 **Abstain-Mocerri; (Ayes-6; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

28 **Adjournment**

29 The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

30 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

31 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

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33 Kelvin Barton, Chair

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Tammy Axlund, Secretary