



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
June 23, 2022**

Public Hearing and 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, Jim Hansen, Stephen Jackson, Kimberley Lund,
6 Scott Van Dalen

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

9 **Absent:** Atul Deshmane, Julie Jefferson, Dominic Mocerì

10 **Department Update**

11 Steve Roberge, Assistant Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS),
12 updated the commission on upcoming meeting topics

13 **Open Session Public Comment**

14 No one offered public comment.

15 **Commissioner Comments**

16 No Commissioners provided comment.

17 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

18 *Timestamp: 07:12*

19 **Commissioner Bartel moved** to approve the meeting minutes from June 9, 2022.

20 **Commissioner Van Dalen seconded.**

21 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Jackson, Lund, Van Dalen; (Ayes-4; Nays-0;**
22 **Abstain-0). The motion carried. Commissioner Hansen arrived after the vote.**
23 **Due to clerical error, Commissioner Barton was not called during roll call.**

24 **Proposed amendments to Whatcom County Code (WCC) 20.13, WCC 20.82,**
25 **WCC 20.83, WCC 20.97, and WCC 22.05 relating to personal wireless service**
26 **facilities**

27 *Timestamp: 08:41*

28 Matt Aamot, PDS Senior Planner, delivered a PowerPoint presentation to provide
29 background regarding the federal laws and regulations and to explain the approval
30 process and timelines for local governments with regards to eligible facilities requests,
31 small wireless facilities, and macro wireless facilities.

32 Mr. Aamot described the amendments to County code which are proposed to bring
33 consistency with federal rules and time frames for processing. He noted that the
34 federal rules limit or preempt some local government rules.

35 Mr. Aamot introduced Craig Ostrom, PDS Planner II, who processes permit requests for
36 wireless facilities. PDS staff responded to Commissioners' questions.



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1 **a) Public Hearing**

2 *Timestamp: 29:10*

3 The following individuals provided public comment:

4 EJ Ledet, Danica Thiessen, Meridee Pabst, Kim Allen, Kevin Bardosh

5 **Work Session**

6 *Timestamp: 49:32*

7 PDS staff and Royce Buckingham, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for Whatcom
8 County, responded to Commissioners' questions and discussed local government
9 preemption by the federal government in the area of health effects from radio
10 frequency emissions. Local governments have authority over appearance of the
11 structures and the permitting process.

12 As requested by the Planning Commission, staff will meet with management and the
13 current planning team to talk through the proposals submitted by industry
14 representatives. They will bring a proposal back to the July 28th Planning Commission
15 meeting.

16 Commissioners asked the public for practical suggestions and invited any citizen to
17 submit specific code language for Exhibit A to address public concerns.

18 The Commission decided by consensus to table a decision until a future meeting.

19 **Adjournment**

20 The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

21 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

22 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

23 

24 Kelvin Barton, Chair



Tammy Axlund, Secretary