



**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE
WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
July 22, 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 6:31 p.m.

4 **Roll Call**

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

7 **Absent:** Atul Deshmane

8 **Staff Present:** Matt Aamot, Josh Fleischmann, Cliff Strong, Mark Personius, and
9 Tammy Axlund from Planning and Development Services; Ann Beck from the Health
10 Department; and Royce Buckingham from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

11 **Department Update**

12 Mark Personius, Director of Planning and Development Services (PDS), announced that
13 on Tuesday, July 27th, County Council will hold their final public hearing on the Cherry
14 Point amendments, and we anticipate a decision. Planning Commission
15 recommendations for battery energy storage systems and the Nooksack Falls Exclave
16 are scheduled for Planning and Development Committee and for introduction at Council
17 meeting on Tuesday. If things goes as scheduled, there will be a public hearing on
18 these items in August.

19 PDS is beginning our post-COVID operations plan. Doors are currently closed to walk-
20 in traffic, but as of July 1st, people have been able to schedule an appointment to come
21 in and speak with staff in person. So far we are filling 4 or 5 of the 12 appointment
22 times which are available each day.

23 **Open Session Public Comment**

24 There was no public comment.

25 **Commissioner Comments**

26 Commissioner McClendon provided an update on the Public Participation Ad Hoc
27 Committee, noting that all members of Executive and Council appointed boards and
28 committees should have received a questionnaire. She encouraged all Planning
29 Commissioners to participate in the survey. The Ad Hoc Committee is creating another
30 survey, which they hope to release to the general public in September.

31 **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

32 **Timestamp: 08:45**

33 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to approve the meeting minutes from July 8,
34 2021, as presented.

35 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

36 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Maberry, McClendon,**
37 **Mocerri; Abstain-Lund; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**



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1 **Temporary Homeless Facilities**

2 **Timestamp: 09:46**

3 The Chair introduced special guests Ann Beck from the Health Department, and Royce
4 Buckingham from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office.

5 Matt Aamot, PDS Senior Planner, provided a presentation describing the County's
6 interim ordinances relating to temporary homeless facilities, proposed definitions, and
7 proposed regulations.

8 Royce Buckingham, Mr. Aamot, and Ann Beck responded to Commissioners' questions.

9 **Timestamp: 24:51**

10 **Public Hearing**

11 There was no public comment.

12 **Work Session**

13 **Timestamp: 36:37**

14 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to make section 23 on page 5 its own section
15 numbered 20.17.030 and reorder the other sections, so the new order goes from those
16 which are more general to those which are more specific as follows:

17 20.17.010 Purpose.

18 20.17.020 Permit Required.

19 20.17.030 Location.

20 20.17.040 Capacity of Temporary Homeless Facilities.

21 20.17.050 Duration of Temporary Homeless Facilities.

22 20.17.060 Requirements for Temporary Homeless Facilities.

23 20.17.065 Additional Requirements for Temporary Building Encampments.

24 20.17.070 Application.

25 20.17.080 Permit Procedures.

26 **Commissioner Maberry seconded.**

27 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
28 **McClendon; Abstain-Mocer; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

29 Commissioners continued with the work session.

30 **Timestamp: 56:00**

31 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to add "as defined in chapter 20.97" at the end of
32 the first sentence under Purpose on page 1 of Exhibit A.

33 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

34 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
35 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

36 **Timestamp: 1:00:05**

37 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to add "Temporary homeless facilities must have
38 a sponsor and managing agency as defined in chapter 20.97." to the first sentence of
39 section 20.17.020 Permit Required.



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1 **Commissioner Lund seconded.**

2 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
3 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

4 (Timestamp 1:07:10)

5 Commissioners reached consensus that the word "or" be reinserted in #11.A and 11.B
6 on page 3 and the word "immediate" be removed from #16 on page 4.

7 Timestamp: 1:20:34

8 **Commissioner Lund moved** to strike the last sentence, "This definition does not
9 include recreational vehicles." from the definition of "Temporary safe parking area" on
10 page 10.

11 **Commissioner Bartel seconded.**

12 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
13 **McClendon; Abstain-Mocer; (Ayes-7; Nays-0; Abstain-1). The motion carried.**

14 Timestamp: 1:34:18

15 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to amend the first sentence of the capacity
16 section by changing "100" to "50" and inserting "an individual temporary homeless
17 facility' in place of "temporary homeless facilities."

18 If the motion carries, the first sentence of Section 20.17.040 Capacity of Temporary
19 Homeless Facilities will read: A maximum of 50 people may be housed in an individual
20 temporary homeless facility located in the unincorporated county.

21 **Commissioner Bartel seconded.**

22 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
23 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

24 **Commissioner McClendon moved** to recommend adoption of the Findings of Fact
25 and Exhibit A as amended.

26 **Commissioner Jackson seconded.**

27 **Roll Call Vote: Ayes-Bartel, Barton, Hansen, Jackson, Lund, Maberry,**
28 **McClendon, Mocer; (Ayes-8; Nays-0; Abstain-0). The motion carried.**

29 **Adjournment**

30 The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

31 Minutes prepared by Tammy Axlund.

32 WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION ATTEST:

33 _____
34 Kelvin Barton, Chair

_____ Tammy Axlund, Secretary