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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Regular County Council

June 19, 2007

Council Chair Carl Weimer called the meeting to order at 7:14 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

Present:

Barbara Brenner
Dan McShane
Sam Crawford
Seth Fleetwood
Laurie Caskey-Schreiber

Absent:

L. Ward Nelson

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weimer announced that there was a **presentation of baseline report on the Design Guidelines for Commercial Development in Birch Bay as developed with A Northwest Collaborative (AB2007-274)** during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

Weimer also announced that there was **discussion of how the Council can meet its legal obligations and move its policy directions forward considering the current level of vacancies in key County staff positions (AB2007-281)** during the Committee of the Whole meeting.

MINUTES CONSENT

Brenner moved to approve the Minutes Consent items.

Motion carried unanimously.

1. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR MAY 8, 2007**
2. **SURFACE WATER WORK SESSION FOR MAY 15, 2007**
3. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR MAY 22, 2007**
4. **REGULAR COUNTY COUNCIL FOR MAY 22, 2007**
5. **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR JUNE 5, 2007**
6. **REGULAR COUNTY COUNCIL FOR JUNE 5, 2007**
7. **BOARD OF HEALTH FOR JUNE 12, 2007**

OPEN SESSION

1
2 The following people spoke:
3

4 Tim Paxton, Clean Water Alliance, stated Rita Foley has been pretty active putting in
5 complaints about development. Recently, she called the County enforcement staff
6 numerous times to get someone to look at a problem with a neighbor clear cutting and
7 developing land. She called many times. Staff came out a few times but didn't see any
8 problems. She kept calling. The County issued a few corrective notices, but the developer
9 ignored them. Finally, the developer decided his problem was all these visits from
10 enforcement staff and Rita Foley. She asked for his help. The State Department of Natural
11 Resources, Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and others visited the
12 site. The developer retaliated by suing Ms. Foley. The person developing this property has
13 run his bulldozer through the creek out there, wiped out all the trees along the riparian
14 zone, and trashed much of the flood plain by Blue Canyon Creek and Butter Creek. Ms.
15 Foley has been sued for harassment. Because the hearing location was moved, her
16 witnesses couldn't find her to testify. The Court clerks claimed they'd never heard of her.
17 She now has an anti-harassment order. She's being sued again for infliction of emotional
18 distress, and they're trying to get her water cut off so she has no water. This whole
19 incident could have been solved with one enforcement call and visit with a stop order.
20 Dragging Ms. Foley through the court system shouldn't have happened. When looking at the
21 lack of personnel in the Planning Department, this is an example of what's happened.
22

23 Brenner stated enforcement is the administration's function. She's been talking to
24 Ms. Foley and understands what's going on out there.
25

26 Anjali Englund, Anti-Hunger Coalition, stated she thanks the Council for declaring
27 June 5, 2007 to be Hunger Awareness Day. She submitted information (*on file*). They
28 would like to continue working with the Council to end hunger in Whatcom County. She
29 discussed statistics from the food bank. Currently, there is no City or County governmental
30 support for emergency food programs.
31

32 Bill Quehrn, Building Industry Association Executive Officer, stated he is concerned
33 about the memo to the County Council dated June 14, 2007 about moving Planning
34 Department staff into the legislative branch. He submitted and read from his testimony (*on*
35 *file*). The Council's recent actions have caused the department to not respond in a timely
36 manner. The County planning process is an administrative, not legislative, function. The
37 Executive is assuring that customer service and business will continue during this
38 reorganization period.
39

40 Weimer asked about the stakeholder committee. He asked if citizens with concerns
41 and complaints are considered stakeholders. Quehrn stated he believes the County
42 Executive appointed the committee of eight. The committee has first looked at customer
43 service, and will make recommendations.
44

45 Gerald Larson, 5045 Alder Street, Birch Bay, stated the County invested a lot of
46 money in Birch Bay planning in the last couple of years. One project was the stormwater
47 and shellfish protection task force. Bruce Roll told them that the Council should be able to
48 vote on the fee structure in August. The Treasurer said the County Council has until
49 October 1, 2007 to get a fee on the 2008 tax statement. If the date is not met, there will
50 be a year delay.
51

52 Dennis Jones, 1487 Sudden Valley, stated there are challenges and plans regarding
53 the Lake Whatcom watershed. They are trying to move from defending and reacting to a

1 governance revenue proposal for either Sudden Valley or seven precincts, which is the
2 entire watershed. The concept is a district concept. It will most likely be a County junior
3 district for things they need out there.
4

5 The City of Bellingham has committed to developing a funding mechanism to buy
6 back major undeveloped areas of the watershed. Work with the people in the watershed,
7 including Rita Foley to the people with their beautiful terraced yards.
8

9 Caskey-Schreiber stated she spoke with City Council Member Barbara Ryan, and the
10 motion to increase the fee to acquire more property in the watershed did not make it out of
11 committee. Jones stated it's still moving in that direction. It's not out of committee. They
12 know they have a lot of things to work out.
13

14 Fleetwood asked how the County could use governance systems money. Jones
15 stated Sudden Valley could use five different levels of governance, using governance and
16 revenue. They must budget for a plan and then make sure the Executive implements it.
17

18 Crawford stated they should take up the topic of the fee at some point. There are
19 implications to working with the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District and how the City
20 handles its customers outside the city. They are all Lake Whatcom water users. They need
21 to share that conversation. The other aspect is to do stormwater work. The Council must
22 be involved and discuss this at the next Joint Lake Whatcom meeting.
23

24 Virginia Watson, 2729 Jensen Road, Bellingham, stated the idea to have long-range
25 planners under the Council is brilliant. The moratorium probably will not be voted on
26 because no one has worked on it. She has tried to get information from Planning staff since
27 June 1, but has not had a response. The Council, administration, and Planning Department
28 work for her. It's not acceptable that little of the Planning Department remains. Little, if
29 anything, has been done to bring the County code in line with the Growth Management Act.
30 That Act passed in 1990. Seventeen years of non-compliance is not acceptable. She's been
31 told that members of the administration yell at County staff and some of the elected
32 officials. This is unacceptable. The Council knows what's best for the county.
33

34 John Lesow, 317 Madrona Place, Point Roberts, stated that over the past two years,
35 former Planning Director Hart briefed the County Planning Commission about what's on at
36 the Planning Department. He was concerned about the number of code enforcement
37 violations that are out there in the county. There are over 800 to 1,000 code enforcement
38 violations out there. He asked how they can have that many code enforcement violations
39 and reasonably expect them to be addressed, particularly with one or two code enforcement
40 staff. When they do get more staff for code enforcement, they are moved over to
41 permitting because permitting, not code enforcement, is what makes this county run.
42

43 They talk a lot about spending a lot of money on grand plans like the legacy plan.
44 Their legacy is the fact that they aren't enforcing the code, including filled wetlands,
45 diverted stormwater, and bad building. They need to concentrate more on code
46 enforcement and less on permitting. Twenty people have left the Planning Department in
47 the last seven years, according to the Whatcom Watch. He asked if they would take their
48 investment money and invest in a company that loses employees that rapidly. Meeting with
49 the administration will not work. They need to do something else.
50

51 Bob Wiesen, 3314 Douglas Road, Bellingham, stated that if the work load is too
52 heavy, they must cut it down. They appointed a Planning Commission that is unbalanced,
53 uninformed as to their responsibilities under the Growth Management Act, and is producing

1 a poor quality product, as evidenced by the Bellingham urban growth plan. They also
2 elected Pete Kremen, who stands for some of them as well. The Council is spinning its
3 wheels on the Bellingham urban growth area. It is Bellingham's urban growth area. They
4 have a staff that is much more qualified than the County's at this point. While watching
5 these subarea plans, some of these consultants seem to suggest that they can develop a
6 whole new plan. He thought the object was to fine-tune the plans, not overhaul them. He
7 asked about the work of the people who have already been involved. They have a hard
8 time getting volunteers to participate because the projects take too long and take up too
9 many issues.

10
11 Brenner asked which subarea plans are being overhauled. Wiesen stated they are
12 working on Bellingham's urban growth area plan. Regarding the subarea plans in the
13 county, the consultants aren't following the parameters of the Growth Management Act.
14 Now, they are working on the Foothills Subarea Plan. The same thing happened with the
15 Lummi Island Subarea Plan.

16
17 Wendy Sutter, 4320 King Mountain Road, stated the Bellingham Herald reported that
18 someone would be clear cutting portions of King Mountain. She went through the
19 applications at the Planning Department. The applications were inconsistent, and indicated
20 that the area has been walked and approved. She questioned that. There are no flags on
21 the property. She asked how the Planning Department would know what they were walking
22 because there were no flags. Many things in the Planning Department need to be looked at.
23 If this happens on King Mountain, it is happening in other places.

24
25 Brenner asked if the administration can find out about this. Sutter stated that they
26 had a meeting with Bob Martin, who was told to put a hold on it because of questions. The
27 person who owns the property has to flag the property so they can actually walk the correct
28 area.

29
30 Ken Mann, 710 East Maryland Street, Bellingham, stated he has had a front row seat
31 to the deterioration of the County Planning Department. For awhile, they were concerned
32 that the product was being affected, that no planning was getting done, and that the
33 department had turned into a permit distribution center and nothing more. There is more
34 to customer service and long-range planning than handing out permits. He applauds
35 Councilmembers Brenner and Weimer for their proposal.

36
37 John Belisle, citizen, stated the staff reports to the Planning Commission have been
38 getting smaller and more general. The Commission also feels what the Council feels, but
39 more so, because they have no power. There are many issues before the Planning
40 Commission and Council. It's difficult to have intelligent and concise analysis. Hire more
41 staff to help Rebecca Craven.

42
43 Jack Petree, 2955 Sunset Drive, Bellingham, stated he spent all day today, the last
44 six months, and the last five years working on the urban fringe subarea plan, which was
45 written in the 1970's to be the ultimate growth boundary.

46
47 Dave Pros, 1466 Roy Road, Bellingham, stated the reality is that the County is
48 responsible for the population projection. Other counties don't give the cities an
49 opportunity to make those decisions. If lots are taken out of one area, they don't have to
50 put them back in the same urban growth area. The number Bellingham picked is too large.
51 The Bellingham City Council said the City taxpayers would have to pay \$131 million to bring
52 the urban growth areas into the city limits. The City Treasurer said that's the cost for
53 infrastructure inside the urban growth areas. It's not related to the impact that those

1 people will have on the rest of Bellingham. Intersections are already below the level of
2 service.
3

4 There are a number of issues before the Planning Commission that have a gray area.
5 The Council must have people give the Commission input from a perspective different from
6 the administration's. The Council should have its own planning department to do what the
7 citizens of the area would like. The people should control the county.
8

9 Marian Beddill, 3600 Seeley Street, Bellingham, stated her concerns continue
10 regarding the Lake Whatcom watershed in particular and the exodus of the County staff in
11 general. Nine staff have left in the past month or two.
12

13 Enforcement is an Executive function, not a Council function. The administration
14 should substantially increase its code enforcement activities. There are laws, but no one
15 follows them. At a number of familiar sites around Lake Whatcom, enforcement hasn't
16 happened, development continues improperly, and developers seem to do whatever they
17 please because they can get away with it. That's not right. That's not government. That's
18 not why the Council and Executive were elected.
19

20 While this is a problem, the right thing to do is a freeze, which is not quite a
21 moratorium. She is concerned that undesired activities will be allowed during this interim
22 period. The Council's oversight of planning activities should somehow be strengthened.
23 Make sure policy happens.
24

25 **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

26 **1. ORDINANCE FOR TEMPORARY INSTALLATION OF STOP SIGNS ON** 27 **MOSQUITO LAKE ROAD AT BOTH ENDS OF THE WELCOME BRIDGE #332** 28 **(AB2007-253)**

29 Weimer asked why they are doing this. The signs are already up.
30
31

32 Joe Rutan, Public Works Department, stated there was an issue of overloading the
33 bridge. They needed to put up load restrictions. They were able to install a stop sign as
34 long as they began the paperwork to do the ordinance within 12 hours. The intention is to
35 not have to restrict loads on the bridge, for the businesses that are out there.
36
37

38 Brenner stated it's a two-way bridge. People stop, and then they go. She asked if
39 the weight is the same. Rutan stated the issue is impact loading. When they don't stop,
40 there is an impact loading factor that goes into the weight of the bridge due to the speed.
41 If a driver stops when entering the bridge, it lessens the loading on the bridge. It's a trick
42 they will use until they can get out there and grind off some of the asphalt to lessen the
43 dead load, when they can remove the stop signs.
44

45 Weimer opened the public hearing and hearing no one, closed the public hearing.
46

47 ***Brenner moved*** to adopt the ordinance.
48

49 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
50
51

1
2 **CONSENT AGENDA**
3

4 **Crawford** reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and
5 **moved** to approve Consent Agenda items one through 14.
6

7 Weimer withdrew item six.
8

9 **Motion to approve Consent Agenda items one through five and seven**
10 **through 14 carried unanimously.**
11

- 12 1. **REQUEST FOR THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE TO ENTER INTO A THREE-YEAR**
13 **CONTRACT WITH SOLE SOURCE AWARD PROVISION BY THOMSEN WEST**
14 **FOR ON LINE LEGAL RESEARCH SERVICES, TOTAL COST IS \$25,068**
15 **(AB2007-260)**
16
- 17 2. **REQUEST FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #07-29 TO LOW BIDDER,**
18 **NORTHEND TRUCK EQUIPMENT, FOR A REPLACEMENT ROLL-OFF HOIST IN**
19 **THE AMOUNT OF \$36,670.93 (AB2007-261)**
20
- 21 3. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #07-41 TO**
22 **LOW BIDDER, SOUND FORD, FOR TWO REPLACEMENT ¾ TON TRUCKS IN**
23 **THE AMOUNT OF \$59,765.16 (AB2007-262)**
24
- 25 4. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #07-43 TO**
26 **LOW BIDDER, SOUND FORD, FOR REPLACEMENT OF TWO 1-TON TRUCKS IN**
27 **THE AMOUNT OF \$64,742.50 (AB2007-263)**
28
- 29 5. **REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #07-57 TO**
30 **LOW BIDDER, FOSS SHIPYARD, FOR ANNUAL DRYDOCK REPAIRS AND**
31 **MAINTENANCE OF THE WHATCOM CHIEF FERRY IN THE AMOUNT OF**
32 **\$218,310 (AB2007-264)**
33
- 34
35
36
37 6. **RESOLUTION REGARDING AN INCREASE IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF**
38 **NON-RECOURSE REVENUE BONDS OF THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORP**
39 **OF THE PORT OF BELLINGHAM WITH PROCEEDS TO BE USED FOR**
40 **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES WITHIN THE COUNTY BY BP WEST**
41 **COAST PRODUCTS LLC (AB2007-265)**
42

43 **Crawford** reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and
44 **moved** to approve the resolution.
45

46 Weimer stated they are approving an increase on bonds up to \$300 million, but
47 there wasn't a description of the reason for the money.
48

49 John Carter, Port of Bellingham Chief Financial Officer, stated the Port authority
50 includes a component called the Industrial Development Corporation of the Port of
51 Bellingham. It's only purpose is to process industrial revenue bonds for Whatcom County
52 applications. Those exist because the internal revenue code allows for tax exempt
53 financing, conduit bond financing, where there is no security from any public agency. By

1 passing through this corporation, it accesses tax exempt financing for a number of
2 categories, including student loans.

3
4 *(Clerk's Note: End of tape one, side A.)*

5
6 Carter continued to state that tax exempt financing categories also include low
7 income housing, pollution control, and solid waste projects. The projects that British
8 Petroleum (BP) proposes qualifies as a pollution control solid waste exemption under the
9 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) tax code. BP has issued bonds in the past through this
10 corporation. The County Council has supported in the past activities of this for \$130 million,
11 which is now being increased to \$300 million. The State determines the qualifications and
12 allocates bond capacity. The IRS allows the State to have conduit financing for industrial
13 revenue bonds in the amount of \$75 per capita. He explained the application process. This
14 resolution comes to the Council because the County is the holder of the economic
15 development strategy for Whatcom County. The Council is being asked to say that this is
16 consistent with that strategy.

17
18 Crawford asked whose money this would be. Carter stated BP would issue financing
19 for a project. The bonds are issued as tax exempt, which drives down the interest rate.
20 The bond holder does not have to pay federal income tax on the earned interest, so they
21 are willing to take a lower interest rate.

22
23 McShane asked how competitive it is to obtain this bonding, within the state. Carter
24 stated it varies from year to year. Typically, applications will be approved in consecutive
25 order. They anticipate that British Petroleum will get funding in the range of \$50 million
26 this year, but this application is for future years also. Typically, they look at projects at the
27 end of September. If they are not going to be funded, there is no carry forward of the tax
28 exemption. If other applicants can use some of the funding capacity, the State will issue
29 additional amounts. Typically, that's gone to low-income housing projects around the state.

30
31 McShane stated this is a service that the Port provides. It sounds like the Port pays
32 a fair amount of attention to this service. Carter stated this is done in every state. The
33 State has its own industrial development corporation, as well. Some counties have more
34 than one corporation. Theoretically, Whatcom County can also become an industrial
35 development corporation.

36
37 Michael Abendhoff, British Petroleum (BP) stated this is an extremely valuable
38 financing tool that allows them to secure capital to invest in the plant. They are looking to
39 increase the cap, which is good news since they already met the cap and have invested
40 about \$130 million in pollution control. They call it waste. It's traditional human waste,
41 from doubling the number of jobs out there in the last five years. They've gone from 425 to
42 800 workers. There are upgrades needed to their wastewater treatment system. They also
43 have to do upgrades for stormwater collection and solids. Because of new investments,
44 they have more stormwater runoff. Much of the investment is in treating and handling
45 sulfur and carbon that's high in sulfur and metals, which is unusable. Gasoline regulations
46 require them to make lower sulfur fuels and change the characteristics of the Alaskan
47 crude. It has a higher sulfur content and more metals than in the past. They must upgrade
48 equipment to continue to treat it and make the same amount of fuels they've made in the
49 past. One project is to process a heavier, high metallic, high sulfur carbon. Another project
50 is to upgrade the sewage disposal systems, which will cost \$65 million.

51
52 Crawford asked what they do with all the left-over sulfur. Abendhoff stated there
53 used to be a market for it, and they would ship it out and sell it. Now, the market is flooded

1 with sulfur from all the refineries. In five to ten years, they will have to pay to get rid of it.
2 Today, it goes all over to fertilizer and chemical companies. Eventually, it will become a
3 waste deposit.

4
5 Brenner stated someone may come up with another use for the sulfur.

6
7 Weimer asked if any of the tax return helps lower the gas prices. Abendhoff stated it
8 helps make the refinery a sustainable local business, and allows them to continue to add
9 jobs.

10
11 ***Motion carried unanimously.***

- 12
13 **7. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A
14 CONTRACT WITH THE WASHINGTON STATE MILITARY DEPARTMENT TO
15 SUPPLEMENT THE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT'S 2007
16 OPERATING BUDGET IN AN EFFORT TO ENHANCE THEIR EMERGENCY
17 MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,783 (AB2007-266)**
- 18
19 **8. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN
20 INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH SNOHOMISH COUNTY TO PROVIDE
21 EQUIPMENT TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN WHATCOM COUNTY FOR
22 ENHANCED CAPABILITIES TO COMBAT TERRORISM, IN THE AMOUNT OF
23 \$178,155 (AB2007-267)**
- 24
25 **9. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A
26 CONTRACT WITH ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT
27 TO PROVIDE OUTPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME
28 PEOPLE IN WHATCOM COUNTY (AB2007-268)**
- 29
30 **10. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A
31 CONTRACT WITH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY SERVICES OF NORTHWEST
32 WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE OUTPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO
33 LOW-INCOME PEOPLE IN WHATCOM COUNTY (AB2007-269)**
- 34
35 **11. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A
36 CONTRACT WITH WESTCOAST COUNSELING AND TREATMENT SERVICES TO
37 PROVIDE OUTPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME
38 PEOPLE IN WHATCOM COUNTY (AB2007-270)**
- 39
40 **12. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A
41 CONTRACT WITH SEAMAR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER TO PROVIDE
42 OUTPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO LOW-INCOME PEOPLE IN
43 WHATCOM COUNTY (AB2007-271)**
- 44
45 **13. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN
46 AGREEMENT WITH THE BELLINGHAM WHATCOM COUNTY HOUSING
47 AUTHORITY TO USE 2060 CAPITAL FUNDS FOR 45 AFFORDABLE HOUSING
48 UNITS (AB2007-272)**
- 49
50 **14. REQUEST AUTHORIZATION FOR THE EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A
51 CONTRACT WITH NAMI OF WHATCOM COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,648
52 (AB2007-273)**
53

1
2 **OTHER ITEMS**
3

4 **1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2007 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, SIXTH**
5 **REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,841,651 (AB2007-254)**
6

7 **Crawford** reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and
8 **moved** to adopt the ordinance.
9

10 Caskey-Schreiber stated the bill from Security Specialists Plus (SSP) for the llama
11 rescue is very questionable. Everything should be covered under the contract. However,
12 she will support the request because she wants these people to get paid. She cannot
13 believe that SSP had the gall to add a \$270 bill to this for their labor in this action. That's
14 what the County contracts with them for. She hopes a future provider is allowed these
15 types of discrepancies. She asked how that is going, and if the administration is in talks
16 with the Humane Society.
17

18 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated they are talking with the Humane
19 Society.
20

21 Caskey-Schreiber asked if the jail siting amount of \$700,000 includes property
22 acquisition. Desler stated it does not.
23

24 Brenner stated she is bothered about the SSP request. She asked why that fee was
25 included and why the County should pay SSP a fee and other bills on top of the contract
26 amount. Desler stated he found this whole effort difficult to deal with. A number of people
27 were out there, including various people representing the County. He didn't know what was
28 being committed to. Many people were doing lots of different things. They started
29 collecting all this claims for the resulting work. He went through the contract and the bills.
30 Some things were rejected outright. They went over other things with the attorney. They
31 looked carefully, and the Executive felt this was an appropriate request.
32

33 Brenner stated she was out there voluntarily doing the same thing that the SSP
34 employees were doing. She assumed that was part of their job.
35

36 Fleetwood asked about the Razor Home Bridge. Desler stated the Council approved
37 the project in 2006. It provides a bridge for a trail from the White Salmon ski area to the
38 State Department of Transportation building. The administration and Forest Service have
39 partnered to improve the forest area. They heard about this project through a committee
40 that is working on this.
41

42 McShane stated the Council plays a role in this Resource Advisory Committee. The
43 Council makes a yearly decision. This project was funded again this year from the Secure
44 Schools Fund Act. The County has a choice to take all the money and use it in a limited
45 way or share a portion of the money with the local forest, along with Skagit County. The
46 Resource Advisory Committee makes decisions and prioritize the projects that get funded.
47 He described the project.
48

49 ***Motion carried unanimously.***
50

51 **2. APPOINTMENT OF GARY KNAUS TO THE NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BOARD**
52 **(AB2007-258)**
53

1 **Crawford moved** to appoint Gary Knaus.

2
3 **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 4
5 **3. COUNTY EXECUTIVE KREMEN REQUESTS CONFIRMATION OF THE**
6 **CONCURRENT APPOINTMENT OF PETER THEISEN TO THE BELLINGHAM-**
7 **WHATCOM COUNTY HOUSING AUTHORITIES BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
8 **(AB2007-275)**

9
10 **Crawford moved** to confirm the appointment.

11
12 **Motion carried unanimously.**

13
14
15 **INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

16 **Crawford moved** to accept the Introduction items.

17
18 **Motion carried unanimously.**

- 19
20
21 **1. ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CURRENT STATE BUILDING CODE AND**
22 **REPEALING THE EXISTING TITLE 15 OF THE WHATCOM COUNTY CODE**
23 **(AB2007-259)**
- 24
25 **2. ORDINANCE FOR REDUCING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT'S**
26 **PETTY CASH REVOLVING FUND TO \$4,700 (AB2007-276)**
- 27
28 **3. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2007 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, SEVENTH**
29 **REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 (AB2007-277)**
- 30
31 **4. ORDINANCE AMENDING WHATCOM COUNTY CODE TITLE 3 TO PROVIDE FOR**
32 **INCREASING THE COLLECTION RATE OF SALES TAX FROM .08% TO .09%**
33 **(AB2007-278)**

34
35
36 **OTHER BUSINESS**

37 There was no other business.

38
39
40
41 **REPORTS AND OTHER ITEMS FROM COUNCILMEMBERS**

42
43 Weimer stated the City Council wants a legal opinion on what water districts can and
44 cannot do in terms of running water outside the urban growth areas (UGA's). There may be
45 a Joint Lake Management meeting possibly before the August break. That question may be
46 addressed at that time.

47
48 Crawford stated the Joint Lake Management meeting should also address the fee
49 issue. It should be broadened. There are lot more water users than those in the city of
50 Bellingham. If a fee is applied, people who use that water have an obligation to take
51 responsibility for that water.

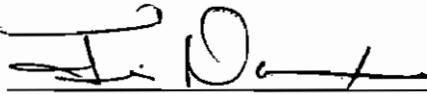
1 Weimer stated one idea is to create another subzone district around the lake to
2 generate money for both stormwater and purchase of property.

3
4 Brenner stated there was an excellent timber tour recently, done by the Women in
5 Timber. She learned that the timber industry produces the most negative carbon footprint
6 with the quick replant process. No other industry reduces carbon emissions as much as the
7 timber industry. The trees give off the most oxygen between years one and 65 to 85. With
8 all the replanting the industry does, a lot of oxygen is put into the atmosphere.

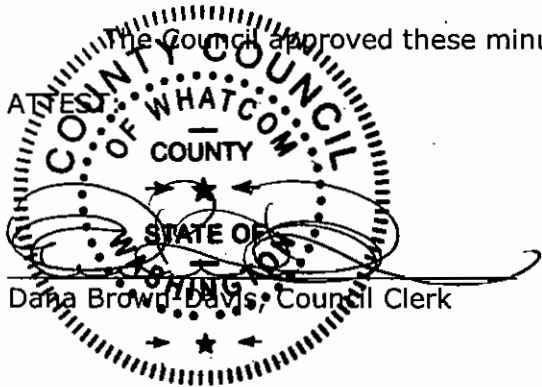
9
10 She also attended a presentation with a Veterans Affairs organization in Marietta. A
11 group of veterans have put together a beautiful place for the veterans to come. She
12 described the event. There is a very active veterans program in Whatcom County that
13 doesn't exist anywhere else in the state. Only a couple of other states have anything close
14 to this.

15
16
17 **ADJOURN**

18
19 The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

20
21 
22 _____
23 Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

24
25 The Council approved these minutes on July 10, 2007.



28 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
29 WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

30
31 
32 _____
33 Carl Weimer, Council Chair