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WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
Finance and Administrative Services Committee

August 4, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Committee Member L. Ward Nelson called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

ATTENDANCE

Present: L. W Nelson and Bob Kelly
Absent: Sam Crawford
Also Present: Seth Fleetwood, Carl Weimer, Barbara Brenner, and Laurie Caskey-Schreiber

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL

1. ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2009 WHATCOM COUNTY BUDGET, NINTH REQUEST, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$974,174 (AB2009-329)

Kelly moved to recommend approval to the full Council.

Ayes: Nelson and Kelly (2)
Nays: None (0)
Absent: Crawford (1)

Brenner asked if this is about taking money out of the general fund, not a tax.

Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, stated it is.

2. REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND JONES & STOKES ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR EXTENSION OF THE SCOPE OF SERVICES RELATED TO THE WHATCOM COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE, IN THE ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF \$24,550, FOR A TOTAL CONTRACT AMOUNT OF \$324,543 (AB2009-333)

Nelson moved to recommend approval to the full Council.

Discussion included incremental increases to pay for continued changes and using a consultant instead of staff for these services.

The following person spoke:

- David Stalheim, Planning and Development Services Department Director, answered questions about getting work done to comply with the December 1, 2009 deadline and the scope of work being done.

Ayes: Nelson and Kelly (2)
Nays: None (0)
Absent: Crawford (1)

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2 **COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEMS**
3

- 4 1. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO AWARD BID #09-50**
5 **AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LOW BIDDER, WELLMAN & ZUCK**
6 **CONSTRUCTION LLC, FOR THE DEMOLITION OF ELEVEN BUILDINGS AT BAY**
7 **HORIZON PARK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220,640.18 (AB2009-334)**
8

9 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

10
11 **Ayes:** Nelson and Kelly (2)

12 **Nays:** None (0)

13 **Absent:** Crawford (1)
14

- 15 2. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A SUB-**
16 **RECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND THE KULSHAN**
17 **COMMUNITY LAND TRUST FOR ADMINISTERING AND COMPLETING THE**
18 **HOUSING AFFORDABILITY PROJECT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 (GRANT**
19 **FUNDING THROUGH CTED) (AB2009-330B)**
20

21 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

22
23 **Ayes:** Nelson and Kelly (2)

24 **Nays:** None (0)

25 **Absent:** Crawford (1)
26

- 27 3. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO ENTER INTO A**
28 **CONTRACT BETWEEN WHATCOM COUNTY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT**
29 **ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING, INC. FOR DESIGN ASSISTANCE OF**
30 **STORMWATER PROJECTS IN THE LAKE WHATCOM AND BIRCH BAY**
31 **WATERSHEDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$131,650 (AB2009-335)**
32

33 Discussion included the background of the contractor.

34
35 The following person spoke:

- 36 • Kirk Christensen, Public Works Department, answered questions about the
37 contractor.
38

39 *Nelson moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

40
41 **Ayes:** Nelson and Kelly (2)

42 **Nays:** None (0)

43 **Absent:** Crawford (1)
44

- 45 4. **REQUEST APPROVAL FOR THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE TO PURCHASE**
46 **COMPUTER EQUIPMENT FOR THE ASSESSOR/TREASURER REPLACEMENT**
47 **PROJECT FROM VENDOR IBM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$86,899.42 (AB2009-336)**
48

49 *Kelly moved* to recommend approval to the full Council.

50
51 **Ayes:** Nelson and Kelly (2)

52 **Nays:** None (0)

53 **Absent:** Crawford (1)

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3 **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**
4

5 **1. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 2ND QUARTERLY**
6 **FINANCE REPORT THAT COVERS REVENUES AND EXPENSES THROUGH JUNE,**
7 **2009 (AB2009-268)**
8

9 Dewey Desler, Deputy Administrator, submitted a presentation, the second quarter
10 financial report, the Whatcom County General Fund Projection as of 6/30/09 (*on file*), made
11 opening remarks, and read from the presentation. Whatcom County is about \$3.7 million
12 below what is budgeted. They will reduce expenditures to match that reduction in revenue.
13

14 Discussion included transfers to the general fund from other funds; backfilling the
15 road fund with real estate excise tax (REET) in 2010; paying down ending fund balances
16 and one-time expenses; whether the furlough plan is included in the second quarter report
17 and how much it will save the general fund; union discussions and vote regarding layoffs
18 and furlough; a selective hiring freeze; department budget targets for 2009 and 2010;
19 prioritizing staff positions based on countywide programs, not department; a disconnect
20 between the Council's priorities and budget decisions and the administration's department
21 cuts; making the number of employees in 2010 equal to the number in 2004 or 2005; what
22 happens if the economy does not begin to rebound and how they would project for 2010
23 and 2011, including service areas and priorities; unfunded State mandates; indicators that
24 the economy is poised to rebound; inviting Dr. Hart Hodges to comment on the County
25 budget, and; using Pierce County's prioritization process before making any layoffs.
26

27 Desler submitted and read from a presentation on the Equipment Rental and
28 Revolving (ER&R) fund and a handout on equity accounts for County funds (*on file*).
29

30 Discussion included sharing equipment costs with other counties; changing County
31 policy to keep equipment as backup and not replace it as often; the Council's involvement
32 until the next budget cycle, and; inserting Council budget priorities mid-cycle.
33

34 Brenner stated discuss Pierce County's process in September.
35

36 Nelson stated they will postpone the discussion on the Administrative Services Equity
37 Fund until September.
38

39 ***The Committee concurred.***
40

41 Desler submitted a list of County staff vacancies (*on file*).
42

43 Nelson asked for the job function of seven vacant planner positions in the Planning
44 Department.
45

46 ***The Committee concurred.***
47
48

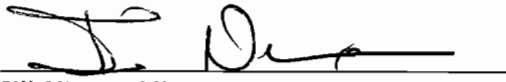
49 **OTHER BUSINESS**
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51 There was no other business.
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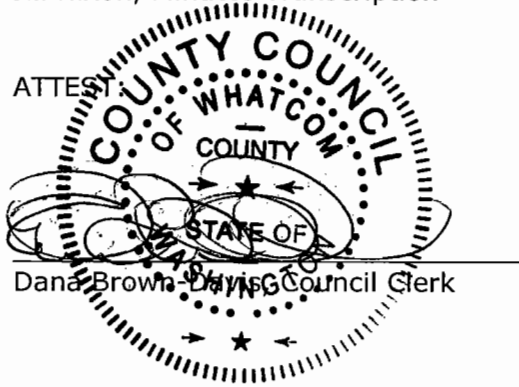
ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.



Jill Nixon, Minutes Transcription

ATTEST



Dana Brown-Davis Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON


L. Ward Nelson, Committee Member