

ORDINANCE NO. 2002-12-103

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON, AMENDING BELLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE CHAPTER 2.80 SETTING FORTH THE COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF THE LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PROVIDING FOR AN ANNUAL, INSTEAD OF QUARTERLY, REPORT BY THE TOURISM COMMISSION TO THE COUNCIL; AND OTHERWISE UPDATING THE CHAPTER.

WHEREAS, Bellingham Municipal Code Chapter 2.80 provides for the continued establishment of the Tourism Commission; and

WHEREAS, a subcommittee of that Commission has served as the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee as required by RCW 67.28.1817; and

WHEREAS, it is advisable to have the Code provisions more clearly identify that subcommittee as the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee and provide explicitly for its membership as required under RCW 67.28.1817; and

WHEREAS, Bellingham Municipal Code Chapter 2.80 should be further updated to provide for an annual instead of quarterly report to the Council; and, to reflect departmental reorganization, to replace [representatives of] "Planning and Community Development" with "Planning" and "the Office of Neighborhoods and Community Development" as an ex officio members on the Commission;

NOW THEREFORE, The CITY OF BELLINGHAM DOES ORDAIN:

Bellingham Municipal Code Chapter 2.80 is amended as follows:

2.80.010 - Established

There is established a tourism commission for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and/or coordinating relationships and communication between agencies promoting tourism and between such agencies and the City. (Ord. 9432 §1, 1985.)

2.80.020 - Membership of Commission and of Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

A. The Commission shall consist of no more than 12 members to be appointed by the Mayor. Membership shall be representative of agencies directly involved in tourism and visitor and convention promotion and may include, but not be limited to, the following: the Bellingham/Whatcom County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Bellingham/Whatcom

County Chamber of Commerce, Western Washington University, Bellingham/Whatcom County hotel and motel owners, Bellingham/Whatcom County restaurant owners, Port of Bellingham, and the Bellingham City Council. In addition, directors of the following City departments/divisions, or their mayorally-approved designees, shall be ex-officio, non-voting members of the Commission: the City of Bellingham Public Works Department, the City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department, the City of Bellingham Planning Department, the City of Bellingham Office of Neighborhoods and Community Development, and the Whatcom Museum of History and Art. (Ord. 2001-12-104; Ord. 9432 §2, 1985.)

B. The Mayor shall appoint a subcommittee of the Commission whose members shall serve as the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee as described by RCW 67.28.1817. The subcommittee shall consist of at least five members and shall include:

- 1) At least two members who are representative of businesses required to collect the lodging tax;
- 2) At least two members who are persons involved in activities authorized to be funded by revenue from the lodging tax; and
- 3) An elected official of the City who shall serve as chair of the Committee.

Persons who are eligible for appointment under (1) of this subsection are not eligible for appointment under (2) of this subsection. Persons who are eligible for appointment under (2) of this subsection are not eligible for appointment under (1) of this subsection. The number of members who are representatives of business required to collect lodging tax shall equal the number of members who are involved in activities authorized to be funded by revenue received from the tax.

C. Organizations required to collect the lodging tax, organizations involved in activities authorized to be funded by revenue received from the lodging tax, and local agencies involved in tourism may submit recommendations for membership on the Commission and the Subcommittee.

2.80.030 - Term And Rules Of Operation

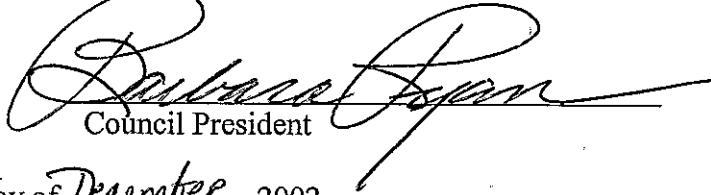
The term of appointed members shall be three years, with appointed members being eligible for reappointment at the Mayor's discretion. Terms shall be staggered to insure year to year continuity of Commission membership. Upon being constituted, the commission shall establish its own internal rules of operation, including provisions for the election or appointment of necessary officers. (Ord. 2001-12-104; Ord. 9432 §3, 1985.)

2.80.040 - Responsibilities

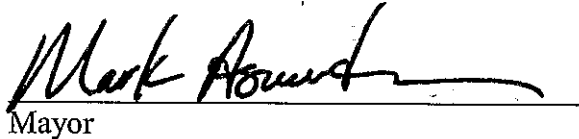
A. It shall be the responsibility of the Commission to prepare recommendations for the Mayor and City Council regarding policies, programs and activities which enhance the tourism and visitor industry in the city and the surrounding area, and to report annually on progress.

B. The Commission through - the subcommittee serving as the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee shall also advise the Mayor and City Council on the appropriate and timely use of City Lodging Tax Funds and of any proposed change in the tax. Any proposed change in the use of the funds or of the tax shall be submitted to the Committee at least 45 days before final action on or passage of the proposal by the Council. (Ord. 2001-12-104; Ord. 9432 §4, 1985.)

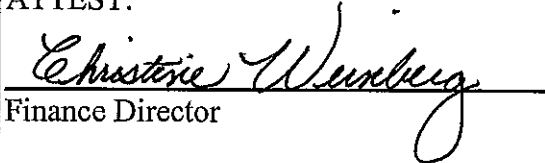
PASSED by Council this 16th day of DEC., 2002.


Council President

APPROVED by me this 30th day of December, 2002.


Mayor

ATTEST:


Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Office of the City Attorney

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