

*I received some valid feedback critical of my messaging and motivations since our last meeting. In response, I prepared a concise resolution describing my reasoning...*

### **Resolution for forming a committee to approach the possibility of incorporation**

**Whereas**, Birch Bay is one of the largest standalone Urban Growth Areas in the state, defined in RCW 36.70A.110 as an area “within which urban growth shall be encouraged” and “where cities are the units of local government most appropriate to provide urban governmental services”; (RCW 36.70A.110)

**Whereas**, the 2008 Birch Bay Incorporation Feasibility Study determined that Birch Bay residents paying taxes at the same level as in unincorporated Whatcom County could support a City of Birch Bay; (Birch Bay Incorporation Feasibility Study)

**Whereas**, since the 2008 Feasibility Study, the population of the Birch Bay Urban Growth Area has grown 51% to 8,909; (Washington Office of Financial Management, Small Areas Estimates Program)

**Whereas**, the Comprehensive Plan projects another population increase of around 50% to 13,040 by 2036; (Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan)

**Whereas**, it is crucial to acknowledge the changing dynamics, both demographically and economically, of our community since the 2008 Feasibility Study;

**Whereas**, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the trend in increasing permanent resident population;

**Whereas**, in light of these factors, an updated Feasibility Study is necessary to quantify the financial, and social implications of potential incorporation and to ensure that it aligns with the present realities and future prospects of Birch Bay;

**Whereas**, it is imperative that we <sup>REVISIT THIS TOPIC</sup> ~~embark on this update~~ to make informed decisions about the governance of our community;

**Whereas**, the evolving needs of our community necessitate a comprehensive discussion about how we desire these needs to be met;

**Whereas**, the existing data no longer adequately represents the current and future requirements of the expanding and transforming Birch Bay community;

**Therefore**, it is proposed that we should actively pursue an impartial, logical, and well-tempered exploration into the advantages and disadvantages of establishing Birch Bay as an independent city. If the community then so desires, we should advance the process of municipal incorporation.

To achieve this goal, I propose the formation of a Birch Bay Incorporation Association. This association would encourage community members to join, enabling them to express their opinions freely. A Steering Committee, elected from the association's membership, could oversee and direct the process. The committee would be responsible for creating a proposal reflecting the needs of our community, petitioning the County for an update to the 2008 Feasibility Study, disseminating information within the community, and actively seeking feedback.