

CITY OF BUCKLEY, WASHINGTON

RESOLUTION NO. 21-15

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY, WASHINGTON, DECLARING THE
ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION
STRATEGY**

WHEREAS, revitalization of Buckley's downtown – including improving the overall vibrancy, commercial composition, and utilization of downtown – has been high priority topic and concern in recent years among Buckley's residents, businesses, organizations, elected officials and staff; and

WHEREAS, most discussions in recent years about revitalizing Buckley's downtown have arisen from a disparate set of issues such as building and zoning code-enforcement concerns, pandemic recovery, and community survey(s) leading to passionate yet often disjointed discussions; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2020, several activities transpired that led to the formation of a more formal downtown revitalization strategy that attempts to connect the various discussions and ideas about improving Buckley's downtown, including:

1. Buckley staff started compiling all of the various ideas and discussion points it has heard about downtown revitalization and formed the framework for a more focused downtown revitalization strategy; and
2. Buckley was accepted as a WA Main Street Program Affiliate City which opened up Buckley to additional guidance and resources to support Buckley's downtown's revitalization; and
3. Buckley administration and staff significantly increased outreach and coordination with businesses to mitigate impacts from COVID-19 restrictions, including hosting a business virtual town hall in November 2020 and supportive measures for outdoor dining; and

WHEREAS, in April 2021, the City of Buckley convened a *Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee* comprised of downtown businesses, organizations, residents, two planning commissioners and city staff to refine a written Downtown Revitalization Strategy and begin the work of implementing its priority action items for Downtown Revitalization; and

WHEREAS, in the summer of 2021, after several meetings of Buckley's Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee, Buckley's Planning Commission took over the development of Buckley's written Downtown Revitalization Strategy while the Advisory Committee focused on steps to implement the

strategy including the upcoming formation of the Buckley Downtown Association supported by grant funding from the WA Main Street Program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed *City of Buckley Downtown Revitalization Strategy* offers a refined vision, goals and actions to improve the vibrancy, commercial composition, and utilization of Buckley's downtown; one that is consistent with Buckley's Comprehensive Plan, Rainier Gateway Subarea Plan, Buckley Municipal Code, and other established plans and policies of the City of Buckley; and

WHEREAS, the proposed *City of Buckley Downtown Revitalization Strategy* reflects and interprets existing planning documents and policies in combination with the wide range of specific project ideas from recent public surveys, council meetings and directives, and community discussions; and

WHEREAS, while Buckley's Comprehensive Plan and recently adopted Rainier Gateway Subarea plan provide a long-term planning framework for improving Buckley's downtown, and Buckley's existing code provides the legal tools necessary to make progress on some of these downtown concerns, this Downtown Revitalization Strategy provides more immediate organization to clarify near-term priorities for Buckley's downtown as well as actions to improve the vibrancy, commercial composition, and utilization of Buckley's downtown; and

WHEREAS, the collective process of bringing various Downtown Buckley stakeholders together to inventory, review, and refine ideas for downtown into a focused *Downtown Revitalization Strategy* is perhaps as valuable as the written strategy itself; and

WHEREAS, specific action items for achieving goals of the *Downtown Revitalization Strategy* may be added or modified over time and implemented in close coordination with City Council, the Planning Commission, staff, and/or downtown stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, as an advisory strategy that supports the implementation of existing plans and policies, consistency with the proposed *Downtown Revitalization Strategy* does not need to be shown for approval of any downtown activity or land use actions, and any actions identified in the *Strategy* which require code amendments or land use permit processes must follow established legal code development and permit review processes already specified in BMC Title 20; and

WHEREAS, as an internal operational, procedural, conceptual and data gathering effort, Buckley's Downtown Revitalization Strategy is SEPA exempt under 197-11-800(14), (17), and (19); and

WHEREAS, after a public notice was posted and published on July 28, 2021, the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Downtown Revitalization Strategy on August 16, 2021 at which it recommended the strategy's adoption by resolution;

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUCKLEY HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Buckley City Council hereby adopts the attached *City of Buckley Downtown Revitalization Strategy* to support improvement of the vibrancy, commercial composition and utilization of Buckley's downtown.

Introduced, passed and approved this 24th day of August, 2021.



Mayor Pat Johnson

ATTEST:



Treva Percival, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Phil Olbrechts, City Attorney

Posted: August 25, 2021