

1 APPROVED: October 22, 2008
2 EFFECTIVE: October 22, 2008

3
4 SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
5 Snohomish County, Washington
6

7
8 AMENDED EMERGENCY ORDINANCE NO. 08-138
9

10
11 RELATING TO COUNTY BUDGETS AND BUDGET PROCEDURES, PROVIDING FOR
12 ANNUAL BUDGETS, REMOVING AUTHORITY TO ADOPT A BIENNIAL BUDGET
13 FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2009, amending
14 scc 4.26.015, and repealing scc 4.26.017, DECLARING AN EMERGENCY, AND
15 CONTAINING AN EFFECTIVE DATE
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18 WHEREAS, the 2006 Charter Review Commission proposed an amendment to
19 the Snohomish County Charter to give the County Council discretion to budget either
20 annually or biennially in accordance with state law, which amendment was approved by
21 the electorate at the general election held on November 7, 2006; and
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23 WHEREAS, the County Council adopted Amended Ordinance No. 07-015 to
24 provide for biennial budgets when consistent with the county election cycle and when
25 authorized by separate ordinance adopted pursuant to the County Charter, state law,
26 and Chapter 4.26 SCC; and
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28 WHEREAS, by Amended Ordinance No. 08-004 the County Council authorized
29 the County to implement biennial budgeting beginning with the 2009-2010 biennium as
30 provided by the County Charter, state law, county code; and
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32 WHEREAS, on September 5, 2008, the County Executive proposed a biennial
33 budget for the 2009-2010 biennium based on revenue estimates for both years of the
34 fiscal biennium; and
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36 WHEREAS, an economic crisis of world-wide proportions has resulted in
37 unprecedented economic volatility and has compromised the County's ability to make
38 reliable revenue estimates, as illustrated by the County Executive's September 30,
39 2008, recommendation that the County Council reduce 2009 revenue estimates by over
40 five million dollars (\$5,000,000), representing sales tax sourcing and investment interest
41 adjustments; and
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1 WHEREAS, staff projections since September 30 have indicated a need to
2 further reduce 2009 revenue estimates, and have included an anticipated general fund
3 revenue shortfall of increasingly dramatic proportions; and
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5 WHEREAS, the County Council finds that it would not be prudent to adopt the
6 County's first biennial budget in the current economic environment, and that it would be
7 in the best interests of the County and public to adopt annual budgets for the period
8 beginning January 1, 2009, and thereafter as provided herein; and
9

10 WHEREAS, emergency action is needed to provide necessary guidance to
11 county officials and staff engaged in the budget process;
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13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED:
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15 Section 1. Snohomish County Code Section 4.26.015, last amended by
16 Amended Ordinance No. 08-004 on March 26, 2008, is amended to read:
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18 **4.26.015 Annual or biennial budgets.**

19 (1) The county council may in its discretion budget either annually or
20 biennially in accordance with the county charter, state law, and this chapter;
21 provided that the council shall adopt an annual budget for any year for which a
22 biennial budget is not authorized by separate ordinance as provided in this
23 section.

24 (2) An ordinance authorizing a biennial budget must

25 (a) provide for mid-biennium review and modification for the second year
26 of the biennium as provided in RCW 36.40.250 and SCC 4.26.117;

27 (b) take effect on or before March 15 of the year prior to the fiscal
28 biennium; and

29 (c) include such further direction regarding the budget process as the
30 council finds necessary.

31 (3) The first year of a fiscal biennium must be an odd-numbered year. If
32 an ordinance providing for biennial budgets is repealed, the council will revert to
33 adopting annual budgets for the period commencing after the end of the last
34 ((biennial)) budget cycle.

35 (4) Any ordinance authorizing a biennial budget of a general and
36 permanent nature within the meaning of county charter section 2.100 shall be
37 incorporated into this chapter.
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39 Section 2. Snohomish County Code Section 4.26.017, adopted by Amended
40 Ordinance No. 08-004 on March 26, 2008, is repealed.
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1 Section 3. Findings and effective date. The County Council finds as a fact that
2 the Council cannot reasonably expect to forge a budget for the second year of the 2009-
3 2010 biennium based on revenue estimates and other information available to the
4 Council in the current economic climate, that it is necessary and appropriate to focus
5 the budget process on the 2009 budget as provided for herein, and that this ordinance
6 is necessary for the support of county government and its existing institutions. Based
7 on the foregoing, the County Council declares that an emergency exists and that this
8 ordinance shall take effect immediately.

9
10 PASSED this 22nd day of October, 2008.

11
12 SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
13 Snohomish County, Washington

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15
16 /s/ Dave Somers
17 Chairperson

18 ATTEST:

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20
21 /s/ Barbara Sikorski
22 Asst. Clerk of the Council

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24 () APPROVED

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26 () EMERGENCY

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28 () VETOED

29 DATE: _____

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32 _____
33 County Executive

34 ATTEST:

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40 Approved as to form only:

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42 _____
43 Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

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