

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
(360) 778-5010**



Action Summary

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

1:05 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISION 2.9.2026

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order**Roll Call**

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements**Items Added by Revision**

1. [AB2026-037](#) Update on 2026 State Legislative Session

DISCUSSED

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-078](#) Discussion of urban growth area proposals for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

MOTION 1

Motion approved to amend the motion (that they give council's preliminary support for the City of Everson's proposed UGA boundaries) to have the southern half of area 1 remain as a UGA reserve.

MOTION 2

Motion approved that they give council's preliminary support for the City of Everson's proposed UGA boundaries as amended.

MOTION 3

Motion approved to amend the motion (to give preliminary support for City of Sumas' UGA proposal) to request that area 2 remain as UGA reserve.

MOTION 4

Motion approved to give preliminary support for City of Sumas' UGA proposal as amended.

2. [AB2026-121](#) Discussion relating to the Planning Commission's final recommendations on the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan update and several amendments to the Foothills Subarea Plan

DISCUSSED

3. [AB2026-041](#) Discussion of an ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

MOTION 1

Motion approved to amend the sixth whereas statement of the substitute ordinance as noted in the executive's suggested ordinance so that it reads:

WHEREAS, audits of Whatcom County's financial statements and adherence to state laws, regulations, and local procedures are currently conducted by the Washington State Auditor's Office annually in accordance with RCW 43.09.260 and, in connection with federal grants or other federal funding; and

MOTION 2

Motion approved to amend the substitute ordinance to add a seventh whereas clause as suggested in the executive's suggested ordinance which reads:

WHEREAS, the State Auditor system allows for the county to select program areas for additional financial auditing and also provides additional advice and services at local government request; and

MOTION 3

Motion approved to retain subsection G of WCC 2.02.195 and add language so that it reads:

G. Beginning January 1, 2029, and biennially thereafter, the executive, AND/OR ELECTED OFFICIAL(S) OVERSEEING THE APPLICABLE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OR OFFICE, shall report to the council on the implementation of the approved recommendations resulting from each performance audit performed under this section including achieved cost savings and expected return on investment.

MOTION 4

Motion approved to recommend the substitute ordinance for introduction as amended.

4. [AB2026-118](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.40.010 to change the permit threshold for outdoor musical entertainment, amusements, and assemblies

DISCUSSED

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2026-132](#) Request for motion to designate one Council representative to participate on the Emergency Medical Services 2029-2034 Levy Committee

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved to appoint Elenbaas as the lead representative and Galloway as the alternate.

Other Business**Adjournment**