

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

**Tuesday, June 24, 2025
6 PM**

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN
INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL
360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2025-036](#) Committee of the Whole for June 10, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2025-037](#) Regular County Council for June 10, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-443](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer Whatcom County's coordinated entry system through the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, in the amount of \$544,578

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

2. [AB2025-444](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to authorize and distribute rental assistance through the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, in the amount of \$7,274,164

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

3. [AB2025-445](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Catholic Community Services to provide on-site supportive services and housing at Francis Place, in the amount of \$277,723

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-446](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to provide funding for the Alternative Response Team Program, in the amount of \$375,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-447](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services - Wildlife Services for wildlife management services, in the amount of \$87,677.87

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-448](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Port of Bellingham for the acquisition of 58.81 acres equipped with two 3,000 square foot buildings located at 6211 Northwest Avenue for the purposes of establishing a Whatcom Agricultural Research Station, in the amount of a \$1,966,542 EDI grant and \$933,271 EDI loan, for a total of \$2,899,813

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-449](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a two-year program agreement between Whatcom County and the State of Washington Department of Children, Youth & Families to provide detention services at the Whatcom County Jail for Juvenile Rehabilitation youth eighteen years and older, in the amount of \$26,000 per year

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-450](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lydia Place to provide rapid rehousing, case management, and coordinated entry access services, in the amount of \$473,162, for a total amended contract amount of \$722,242

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-454](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lydia Place to provide permanent housing and supportive services in the amount of \$258,976, for a total amended contract amount of \$388,463

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

10. [AB2025-461](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group to expand local assistance to homeowners participating in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, in the amount of \$80,000, for a total amended contract amount of \$120,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

11. [AB2025-462](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the Nooksack Indian Tribe to compensate the Nooksack Indian Tribe for staff time to support the Floodplain Integrated Planning process, in the amount of \$64,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$88,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

12. [AB2025-463](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lydia Place to provide funding for the emergency

shelter program, in the amount of \$436,352, for a total amended contract amount of \$680,728

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

13. [AB2025-464](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and The Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement of services related to the Uniform Guardianship Act, in the amount of \$67,740

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

14. [AB2025-465](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a six-month contract amendment between Whatcom County and Northwest Regional Council for Jail Nursing Services, in the amount of \$1,354,508.50 for a total contract amount of \$11,009,534.17

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

15. [AB2025-466](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Department of Children, Youth and Families for services relating to evidence-based programming for juveniles under the supervision of Juvenile Court

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

16. [AB2025-467](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide housing case management services in the amount of \$2,007,866, for a total amended contract amount of \$2,927,247

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

17. [AB2025-468](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration to ensure a coordinated system of local services for persons with disabilities, in the amount of \$6,129,076

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

18. [AB2025-473](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer the Housing and Essential Needs Program, in the amount of \$3,409,883

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

19. [AB2025-474](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement between Whatcom County and Ferndale Youth Sports for maintenance and operation of the baseball fields at the Northwest Sports Complex, in the amount of \$1

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

1. [AB2025-443](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer Whatcom County's coordinated entry system through the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, in the amount of \$544,578

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 1 - Byrd

2. [AB2025-444](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to authorize and distribute rental assistance through the Whatcom Homeless Service Center, in the amount of \$7,274,164

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Stremler

16. [AB2025-467](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide housing case management services in the amount of \$2,007,866, for a total amended contract amount of \$2,927,247

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 1 - Byrd

18. [AB2025-473](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer the Housing and Essential Needs Program, in the amount of \$3,409,883

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Stremler

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-451](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 7, in the amount of \$1,500,000

ADOPTED

Aye: 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

Enactment No: ORD 2025-030

2. [AB2025-453](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 6, in the amount of 16,735,908

ADOPTED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 1 - Byrd

Enactment No: ORD 2025-031

(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)

3. [AB2025-479](#) Discussion and request for motion regarding draft Justice Project Stakeholder Group Charters

HELD IN COMMITTEE

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. [AB2025-434](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, for-profit health care position, Applicant(s): Dave Chase, Elizabeth Hampton

APPOINTED

Appointed Elizabeth Hampton with six votes

**CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

1. [AB2025-476](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Kyann Flint to the Whatcom County Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee

CONFIRMED

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

- [AB2025-471](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern, re: Richard Kirkham v. Whatcom County et al. United States District Court for Western District of Washington in Tacoma, Cause No. 2:25-CV-208-DGE-DWC
[Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1) (i)]

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved 7-0 to approve defense and indemnification of Donnell Tanksley, Whatcom County Sheriff, Wendy Jones, Former Chief of Corrections, Caleb Erickson, Chief of Corrections, and Breanna Brock, RN, BSN, CCHP, named as defendants in Richard Kirkham v. Whatcom County et al., United States District Court for Western District of Washington in Tacoma, Cause No. 2:25-CV-208-DGE-DWC.

This motion is based on the following findings:

- A. That Donnell Tanksley, Wendy Jones, Caleb Erickson, and Breanna Brock were acting in a matter in which the county had an interest;
- B. that Donnell Tanksley, Wendy Jones, Caleb Erickson, and Breanna Brock were acting in the discharge of a duty imposed or authorized by law;
- C. and that Donnell Tanksley, Wendy Jones, Caleb Erickson, and Breanna Brock acted in good faith.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES
CONTINUED**

ADJOURN