

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**TEMPORARILY CHANGING THE FORMAT OF COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
FOR COUNCIL MEETING DAYS**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County Code (WCC) Section 2.02 describes policies and procedures of the Whatcom County Council and its standing committees; and

WHEREAS, WCC 2.02.075 establishes the following standing committees:

- Finance and Administrative Services,
- Planning and Development,
- Public Works and Health,
- Climate Action and Natural Resources, and
- Criminal Justice and Public Safety; and

WHEREAS, all seven councilmembers currently serve on all five standing committees;
and

WHEREAS, Council and county staff collectively expend a significant amount of time and resources preparing and processing agendas and minutes for up to five different standing committees; and

WHEREAS, on Tuesday meeting days, county staff members sometimes attend standing committee meetings during the morning and afternoon to answer councilmember questions as well as the evening Council meeting where final action may take place; and

WHEREAS, Council desires to create efficiencies by reducing the number of standing committees and referring all agenda items to Finance and Administrative Services Committee, Committee of the Whole, or Council; and

WHEREAS, Council believes further efficiencies can be achieved by enabling final action on contracts, budget amendments, and appointments during Finance and Administrative Services Committee meetings; and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes to Council and committee meeting policies and procedures are intended to provide both time and cost savings for the county; and

WHEREAS, WCC 2.02.040, Meetings – General rules, states that regular meetings of the county council and its standing committees shall be held every other Tuesday in the Whatcom County Council Chambers, unless decided otherwise by the council; and

WHEREAS, WCC 2.02.100 authorizes council to pass resolutions to organize and administer the legislative branch; and

WHEREAS, Council wishes to pilot proposed changes to its standing committees and meeting processes on a temporary basis to provide councilmembers, staff, and community members time to evaluate the efficacy and impact of the consolidated meeting format; and

WHEREAS, this pilot project will not change policies or procedures for public comment during open session or public hearings at evening Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, if or when Council seeks to permanently change its rules of procedure governing time, place, or conduct of its meetings and hearings following this trial period, it shall do so after obtaining feedback, by ordinance as required by the Whatcom County Charter Section 2.23.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that, starting September 15, 2026 and continuing through the end of the year, the Finance and Administrative Services Committee will begin no earlier than 9:00 a.m. and adjourn by noon, and the agenda will include the following:

- Final action on agenda items,
- A public comment session totaling no more than 30 minutes during which community members are invited to speak for up to two minutes per person on Finance and Administrative Services Committee agenda items,
- Executive Session to be scheduled as needed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that starting September 15, 2026 and continuing through the end of the year, Committee of the Whole will be scheduled following Finance and Administrative Services Committee to adjourn by 4:30 p.m., and the agenda will include the following:

- Presentation and discussion on all items not covered in Finance and Administrative Services Committee (no final action),
- Councilmember updates, relocated from Council's evening meeting, which can include reports about entities with councilmember representation, community happenings, and policy priority updates, as time allows; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that, at the end of the pilot period, the Council will solicit public feedback on the desirability of continuing to use the format described herein.

APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2026

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kimberly Thulin via email 8/6/26 (JG)

Civil Deputy Prosecutor