

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole-Executive Session

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

8:45 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 9:50 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 8:46 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion

Attorneys Present: Kimberly Thulin, Jesse Corkern, and Tom Saguine. Galloway stated that discussion of agenda items one through four may take place in executive session pursuant to the following RCWs:

RCW 42.30.140 (4)(a) for AB2026-166
RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) for AB2026-153
RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) or AB2026-141
RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) for AB2026-157

Executive session will conclude no later than 9:50 a.m. If the meeting extends beyond the stated conclusion time, the Council chair will make a public announcement.

Rienstra moved to go into executive session until no later than 9:50 a.m. to discuss the agenda items pursuant to the RCW citations as announced by the Council Chair. The motion was seconded by Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Councilmembers entered executive session at 8:49 a.m.

At 9:48 a.m., the Council chair announced that the executive session would extend to no later than 10 a.m.

1. [AB2026-166](#) Update on negotiations and planning strategy discussion regarding collective bargaining [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

2. [AB2026-153](#) Discussion with Public Works staff regarding a potential property acquisition [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

3. [AB2026-141](#) Discussion of potential litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern and Chief Civil Deputy Tom Seguire [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1) (i)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

4. [AB2026-157](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Jesse Corkern, regarding Scott W. Hansen and Diane M. Hansen vs. Whatcom County Public Works Department et al., Whatcom County Superior Court, Cause No. 26-2-00133-37. Defense and indemnification of Elizabeth Kosa, Director, Whatcom County Public Works, Tyler Schroeder, Former Deputy Executive, Whatcom County and Matt Johnson, Road Crew Leader, Whatcom County Public Works named as defendants. [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1) (i)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on March 10, 2026.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE