

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

**Tuesday, October 7, 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); AGENDA REVISED 10.6.2025**

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. [MIN2025-058](#) Special Council and Planning Commission for September 16, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2025-059](#) Special Committee of the Whole for September 16, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [MIN2025-060](#) Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board for September 16, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [MIN2025-061](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for September 23, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

5. [MIN2025-062](#) Committee of the Whole for September 23, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [MIN2025-063](#) Regular County Council for September 23, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2025-575](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 3.05, Tort and Damage Claims, to create a risk management committee and clarify the processing of tort claims

SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-048

Adopted Substitute Ordinance 10.7.2025

2. [AB2025-597](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County real property as surplus and approving transfer

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-031

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-669](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families to administer the Nurse Family Partnership Program, in the amount of \$393,195

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-670](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lutheran Community Services Northwest to lease a facility intended for use as a severe weather shelter, in the amount of \$66,455

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-671](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. to provide adjudication technical assistance, in the amount of \$105,000 (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

4. [AB2025-675](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and GeoTest Services, Inc. in the amount of \$50,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$250,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-683](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement between Whatcom County and Squalicum Mountain Holdings LLC to lease space on a radio tower on Squalicum Mountain, in the amount of \$135,841

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-686](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Northwest Educational Services District 189 to participate in the Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, in the amount of \$12,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-687](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Snohomish County to participate in the Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, in the amount of \$45,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-689](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and San Juan County to participate in the Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, in the amount of \$29,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-690](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Lookout Mountain Holdings LLC to add equipment to the radio tower lease, in the amount of \$36,269

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2025-691](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Land Trust to provide funding from the Conservation Futures Fund to fulfill requirements of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Whatcom Land Trust to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$200,000

This item was considered separately below.

11. [AB2025-692](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement amendment between Whatcom County and SpectraSite Communications, LLC to add equipment to the radio tower lease, in the amount of \$24,969

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

12. [AB2025-695](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington Traffic Safety Commission for high visibility enforcement (HVE) traffic safety emphasis overtime patrols, in the amount of \$28,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

13. [AB2025-697](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2025-021 to designate the Chair of the Council Finance Committee as an Alternate Director to the Risk Pool Board of Directors

This item was considered separately below.

14. [AB2025-698](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Communications NorthWest to configure, install and provide point to point microwave network installations, in the amount of \$159,224

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

10. [AB2025-691](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Land Trust to provide funding from the Conservation Futures Fund to fulfill requirements of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Whatcom Land Trust to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$200,000

AUTHORIZED

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

Nay: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler

13. [AB2025-697](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2025-021 to designate the Chair of the Council Finance Committee as an Alternate Director to the Risk Pool Board of Directors

TABLED

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

Nay: 0

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee)

1. [AB2025-603](#) Resolution receiving the Forest Resilience Plan submitted by the Forest Resilience Task Force

SUBSTITUTE APPROVED AS AMENDED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-032

Motion approved 7-0 to amend third whereas clause on page three to strike “including” and replace with “which may include” so that it reads:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that the Council receives Exhibit A, the Forest Resilience Plan, as submitted by the Forest Resilience Task Force as an initial draft, and commits to supporting ongoing work related to forest resilience in Whatcom County, which may include the provision of sufficient county staff support; and

Motion approved 7-0 to amend to accept the edits as proposed by legal (to the substitute version as amended in committee)

Motion approved 7-0 to amend the main motion to add “Draft” to the Forest Resilience Plan document, to the legislative record, and to the Forest Resilience Task Force website

(No Committee Assignment)

2. [AB2025-699](#) Request for motion to appoint three Councilmembers to Joint Advisory Workgroup for Justice Project planning purposes

APPOINTED

Appointed Buchanan (7 votes), Galloway (7 votes), and Elenbaas (4 votes)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-641](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Forest Advisory Committee, harvester or silviculturist, Applicant(s): Shelby Beam

APPOINTED

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

Nay: 0

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-681](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive’s appointment of Deon Wolfenbarger to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2025-704](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services to operate a severe weather shelter in Ferndale, in the amount of \$145,993

AUTHORIZED

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

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

1. [AB2025-637](#) Ordinance amending the Countywide Planning Policies, which reside in Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendix C

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-672](#) Resolution approving the Public Works Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the years 2026-2031

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-673](#) Resolution adopting the 2026 Annual Road Program

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-674](#) Receipt of report from Public Works Director

RECEIVED

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-676](#) Resolution adopting the 2026-2031 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program (WRIP) (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

This item was considered separately below.

6. [AB2025-678](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 9

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-680](#) Resolution amending the 2025 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget,

request no. 4, in the amount of \$49,400 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-682](#) Ordinance establishing the Silver Lake Lagoon Project Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge Fund

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-685](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$517,671

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

5. [AB2025-676](#) Resolution adopting the 2026-2031 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program (WRIP) (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

WITHDRAWN

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

Nay: 0

This item was withdrawn from Introduction and will be scheduled for introduction at a future meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN