

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

Wednesday, August 6, 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 Stremler

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. [MIN2025-042](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 8, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

2. [MIN2025-043](#) Regular County Council for July 8, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

3. [MIN2025-044](#) Committee of the Whole for July 8, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

1. [AB2025-546](#) Review final project performance on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Program

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

2. [AB2025-549](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force, applicant(s): Alycia Francis (Deadline for additional applications is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

3. [AB2025-558](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 9, in the amount of \$956,986

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

4. [AB2025-570](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Board of Equalization, Applicant(s): Wes Van De Mark (Deadline for additional applications is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2025)

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2025-485](#) Ordinance granting Percie Road Water Association a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

Enactment No: ORD 2025-041

2. [AB2025-487](#) Ordinance granting Point Roberts Water District #4 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

ADOPTED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

Enactment No: ORD 2025-042

3. [AB2025-548](#) Public Hearing for 2025 Coordinated Water System Plan Update

PUBLIC HEARING HELD (file final)

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-543](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to provide technical assistance and education outreach to small businesses, in the amount of \$308,750

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-544](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Cowden Brothers Trucking, LLC, vector waste facility for the disposal of waste produced by Whatcom County Public Works vector trucks while providing service to multiple functions within our Maintenance and Operations group in the amount of \$288,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$576,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-550](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement

between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to remove litter and illegally discarded materials from public lands, in the amount of \$71,400

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-555](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Ferndale for participation in the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process, including participation on the FLIP Steering Committee, FLIP Team, and FLIP Reach Teams, in the amount of \$30,000 (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

5. [AB2025-556](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Columbia Policy Advisors to assist Whatcom County in developing and implementing a legislative advocacy program in the amount of \$86,040

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

6. [AB2025-557](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cost reimbursement agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Everson to increase the budget for participation in the Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) process, including participation on the FLIP Steering Committee, FLIP Team, and FLIP Reach Teams, in the amount of \$30,000 for a total amended amount of \$103,000 (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

7. [AB2025-561](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$5,517,000

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

8. [AB2025-562](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Associated Earth Sciences, Inc. to conduct additional

monitoring and data collection for a groundwater-surface water interaction study and an investigation into the impacts of agricultural tile drains on stream flows, in the amount of \$77,420 (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

9. [AB2025-564](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to amend Whatcom County Contract No. 202005011 between Whatcom County and Runback Election Services, increasing the original contract amount by \$111,428

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2025-566](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Matrix Consulting Group, Ltd. to evaluate human resources policies and procedures in an amount of \$0 for a total amended contract amount of \$76,500

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

11. [AB2025-567](#) Request authorization for County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Mission Critical Partners, LLC to complete a countywide fire and EMS study, in an amount of \$0 for a total amended contract amount of \$223,056

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

12. [AB2025-568](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to continue building an officer wellness program, in the amount of \$50,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

13. [AB2025-569](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Executive Office of the President's Office of National Drug

Control Policy (ONDCP) to implement the strategy of the Northwest High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA), in the amount \$193,147

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

14. [AB2025-571](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to help cover a portion of the Victim/Witness Coordinator position salary and benefits in an amount not to exceed \$52,029

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

15. [AB2025-572](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families for reimbursement for daily bed rate for detention services for juveniles committed to Juvenile Rehabilitation, in the amount of \$250 per day

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

16. [AB2025-573](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursements of costs related to water adjudication, in the amount of \$1,721,200

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

17. [AB2025-574](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to receive pass through funding in support of WhatComm 911 in the amount of \$74,045

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

5. [AB2025-556](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Columbia Policy Advisors to assist Whatcom County in

developing and implementing a legislative advocacy program in the amount of \$86,040

AUTHORIZED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

7. [AB2025-561](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$5,517,000

AUTHORIZED

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

Nay: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremmler

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee)

1. [AB2025-565](#) Resolution authorizing the Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program staff and Whatcom County Executive to proceed with the acquisition of conservation easements on four properties

APPROVED

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

Nay: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: RES 2025-023

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

2. [AB2025-533](#) Resolution approving recommendation on application for open space current use assessment

APPROVED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

Enactment No: RES 2025-024

(No Committee Assignment)

3. [AB2025-576](#) Request for motion to vote for a county representative for the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Board of Natural Resources

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved 5-0, with Byrd abstaining and Donovan out of the meeting, to have Whatcom County place their vote in support of Randy Johnson for the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) Board of Natural Resources.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. [AB2025-518](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Forest Advisory Committee, position for a forest product manufacturer representing a sawmill that receives wood from Whatcom County, Applicant(s): Adam Ellsworth

APPOINTED

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

Motion approved 6-0, with Donovan out of the meeting, to waive the residency requirement (WCC 2.03.090 and WCC 2.123.040 [F]) for representatives of the commercial forest landowner and manufacturer positions on the committee.

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. [AB2025-547](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Henry Fisher to the Whatcom County Food Systems Committee

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES**

From Finance and Administrative Services Committee:

Motion failed 3-2, with Byrd abstaining, Donovan out of the meeting, and Elenbaas and Stremler opposed, that they endorse the co-management model that was presented (an ownership model with a non-profit entity with County participation).

ADJOURN