

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

3:20 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY/LATE - ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.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

Roll Call

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-298](#) Discussion and preliminary Council direction on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendix K: Adequate Provisions Checklist for Housing Availability

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

MOTION 1:

Motion approved to recommend staff prepare Appendix K (Planning Commission Approved Version from 5/14/26) for an upcoming inclusion in a future agenda bill file for council introduction and public hearing.

MOTION 2:

Motion approved to reinsert the language on page one of the proposed Appendix K under the header, "Action Needed to Address Barrier" which was stricken by the Planning Commission (comment MS2) and which starts with "Under the" and ends with "Additionally."

MOTION 3:

Motion approved to amend to add a bullet point under "Action Needed to Address Barrier" on page 9 of the proposed Appendix K that says:

Conduct a fee study and update fee schedule to collect reasonable and sufficient fees to cover the cost of processing permits, enabling investment in staff and administrative infrastructure necessary to improve permit processes and timelines.

MOTION 4:

Motion approved to amend to add a bullet point under "Action Needed to Address Barrier" on page 9 of the proposed Appendix K that says:

Consider implementing impact fees to defray the costs of infrastructure and service improvements required by development in areas under county jurisdiction as allowed by state law.

2. [AB2026-249](#) Discussion regarding schedule for Council review of the comprehensive plan update

DISCUSSED

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2026-390](#) Resolution regarding greenhouse gas reduction sub-element voluntary review as part of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan periodic update under the Washington

State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.096)

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Adjournment