

Whatcom County Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, August 11, 2026

9:05 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 9:55 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 Stremmler

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

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2026-585](#) 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 the Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem program, formerly the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, in the amount of \$84,523

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-586](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cooperative reciprocal agreement between Whatcom County and Skagit County to provide for secure custody and confinement of juvenile offenders as needed

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-591](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and San Juan County to fund the prevention of the use of cannabis and commercial tobacco products by youth for an additional year, in the amount of \$36,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$71,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-594](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to utilize State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to sustain and enhance Division of Emergency Management programs, in the amount of \$58,010

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-595](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to move forward with the construction phase of the Birch Bay-Lynden Road and Blaine Road (SR-548) Intersection Improvements project, in the amount of \$3,802,670

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-599](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide a Washington Conservation Corps crew and supervisor, in the amount of \$269,450 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-606](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award bid #26-28 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Western Refinery Services for 2026 Swift Creek Channel Excavation in the amount of \$277,341.62

THIS ITEM WAS RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT THEN RECONSIDERED
BELOW UNDER COUNCIL "CONSENT AGENDA" ITEM RECONSIDERED

8. [AB2026-609](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Camis USA to provide reservation and point-of-sale software services, in the amount of \$251,825 over five years

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2026-610](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and United States Natural Resource Conservation Service for matching funding for the Canyon Creek Forest Conservation Easement, in the amount of \$845,141

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-611](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and United States Natural Resource Conservation Service for matching funding for the Jensen Agriculture Conservation Easement, in the amount of \$750,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-620](#) Discussion of an ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 12, in the amount of \$2,094,013

DISCUSSED

2. [AB2026-624](#) Discussion of an ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility Fund, request no.12

DISCUSSED

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

3. [AB2026-590](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and AidKit to subsidize child care costs and augment child care providers in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$7,052,947

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmer

1. [AB2026-580](#) Ordinance establishing the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345 and establishing an initial budget for the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-581](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$3,658,280

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

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

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

Council "Consent Agenda" Item Reconsidered

7. [AB2026-606](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award bid #26-28 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Western Refinery Services for 2026 Swift Creek Channel Excavation in the amount of \$277,341.62

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Elenbaas

Motion approved 7-0 to reconsider the Council's Consent Agenda

Motion approved 7-0 to approve the Consent Agenda minus Consent Agenda item number seven (1-6 and 8-10).

Motion approved 6-0, with Elenbaas abstaining, to recommend AB2026-606 for authorization (with the amended title noting an amount of \$277,341.62).

Other Business

Adjournment