

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, September 23, 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 Stremmer

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council is currently holding meetings in hybrid format with options for in-person or remote viewing and participation. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to speak remotely. Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the Council's meetings are asked to contact the Council Office at 360.778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

The County is accepting applications from county residents to fill vacancies on several boards, commissions, and committees spanning a wide range of important local issues. For more information, visit the Boards and Commissions vacancy webpage on the County website or call the Council Office or County Executive's Office.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2025-054](#) Special Council for August 26, 2025
2. [MIN2025-055](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for September 9, 2025
3. [MIN2025-056](#) Committee of the Whole September 9, 2025
4. [MIN2025-057](#) Regular County Council for September 9, 2025

OPEN SESSION

Participants requesting to speak during open session may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

During open session, audience members may speak to the council on issues not scheduled for public hearing. All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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Per RCW 42.36.060 Councilmembers are prohibited from engaging in ex parte communications in matters where the Council determines the legal rights, duties, or privileges of specific parties in a hearing or other contested case proceeding. Council serves in a quasi-judicial role as a decision-maker on major project permits, which cannot be discussed by members of the public at Council meetings. Examples of major project permits that cannot be discussed at Council meetings include LSS2024-00001 R and R Acres Long Subdivision and Development Agreement, LSS2022-00001 Red Mountain Long Subdivision and Development Agreement, and MPP2024-00002 ALA Energy, Ferndale Terminal Existing and Planned Improvements.

CONSENT AGENDA

Items under this section of the agenda may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received and studied background material on all items. Committee review has taken place on these items, as indicated. Any member of the public, administrative staff, or council may ask that an item be considered separately.

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-595](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the purpose of providing pass-through funding from the Washington State Military Department to the What-Comm 911 Communications Center, in the amount of \$74,045
2. [AB2025-647](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to collect and properly manage household hazardous waste at the Disposal of Toxics Facility, in the amount of \$542,845
3. [AB2025-648](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to enforce solid waste codes and monitor solid waste handling facilities for compliance, in the amount of \$237,068

4. [AB2025-649](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce for climate planning, in the amount of \$283,000
5. [AB2025-650](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Puget Sound Partnership for coordination of the Whatcom Local Integrating Organization, in the amount of \$443,750 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
6. [AB2025-651](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a joint funding agreement between Whatcom County and the United States Department of Interior Geological Survey for stream flow or water quality data collection at ten Nooksack watershed stream gages, in the amount of \$127,940 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2025-652](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to perform vegetation maintenance at various riparian and wetland mitigation sites, in the amount of \$109,340
8. [AB2025-653](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the County's 11 stream gages within the Nooksack River early warning system, Jones Creek, and the Sumas River, in the amount of \$176,455 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
9. [AB2025-655](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Administrative Office of the Courts to support the Interpreter Reimbursement Program, in the amount of \$102,171
10. [AB2025-658](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Summit Food Service to provide commissary services in the Whatcom County Jail and Work Center, in the amount of \$0
11. [AB2025-662](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Harris Engineers for the purpose of Clean Building Performance Assurance Services for Whatcom County Facilities, in the amount of \$449,882.29

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-608](#) Resolution amending the 2025 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, Request no. 3, in the amount of \$105,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
2. [AB2025-614](#) Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the Jail Reentry Improvements project
3. [AB2025-628](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$1,820,416

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

4. [AB2025-640](#) Resolution relating to the 2025 Whatcom County Coordinated Water System Plan Update

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

5. [AB2025-579](#) Resolution approving a revision to the corporate boundaries of the City of Lynden to include a portion of Flynn Road right-of-way

(No Committee Assignment)

6. [AB2025-585](#) Approval of special standing meeting dates for 2026

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

Per Whatcom County Code 2.03.070(B), the council must confirm or reject executive appointments within 30 days of submission to the council. County code deems the appointee confirmed if council does not take action within this time.

1. [AB2025-659](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Andrew Davis to the Whatcom County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Council action will not be taken. The council may accept these items for introduction (no action) in a single motion. Changes, in terms of committee assignment for example, may be made at this time.

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
2. [AB2025-639](#) Receipt of final report of the independent study of the countywide fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system from Mission Critical Partners
3. [AB2025-664](#) Receipt of Harassment and Complaint Policies and Procedures Evaluation Final Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN