

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

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 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. [MIN2025-054](#) Special Council for August 26, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

2. [MIN2025-055](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for September 9, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

3. [MIN2025-056](#) Committee of the Whole September 9, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

4. [MIN2025-057](#) Regular County Council for September 9, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

OPEN SESSION**CONSENT AGENDA****(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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

This item was considered separately below.

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

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)

AUTHORIZED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

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)

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-028

2. [AB2025-614](#) Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the Jail Reentry Improvements project

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-046

3. [AB2025-628](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$1,820,416

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2025-047

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

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

SUBSTITUTE APPROVED AS AMENDED

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

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Donovan

Enactment No: RES 2025-029

Motion approved 6-0, with Donovan abstaining, to amend the substitute to add a final whereas statement as follows: Whereas, Whatcom County expressly recognizes that municipal water purveyors who hold municipal water rights beyond those identified in the CWSP may be available to serve potable water in the future in Whatcom County;

Motion approved 6-0, with Donovan abstaining, to amend condition 2 under NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED so that it reads:

2) The existence of a water service area designation in the Coordinated Water System Plan shall not be interpreted as support for, or justification of, Urban Growth Area expansion. Such designations may be considered in a comprehensive planning context but only in conjunction with other mandatory Growth Management Act criteria, including population forecasts, land capacity, environmental constraints, Page 3 and capital facility planning.

(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

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

Enactment No: RES 2025-030

(No Committee Assignment)

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

APPROVED BY THE COUNCILMEMBERS AS AMENDED

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

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

Motion approved 6-0, with Byrd abstaining, to amend to have the Special Committee of the Whole meetings from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

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

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

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 INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 0

The Revised Substitute ("Substitute Ordinance revised in committee 9.23.2025") was introduced 7-0

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

RECEIVED

3. [AB2025-664](#) Receipt of Harassment and Complaint Policies and Procedures Evaluation Final Report

RECEIVED**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES**

Motion approved 5-1-1, with Scanlon opposed and Byrd abstaining, that Tyler Byrd is the only one that gives a councilmember update tonight and the rest of them wait for two weeks.

ADJOURN