

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, July 14, 2026  
6 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://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

## COUNTY COUNCIL

### CALL TO ORDER

### ROLL CALL

### FLAG SALUTE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council meetings are held in a hybrid format with in-person and remote participation available. For instructions on remote participation, visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil).

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance. Assistive listening devices are available in Council Chambers, and live captions are available through Zoom for those participating remotely.

Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

The County is accepting applications to fill vacancies on advisory groups for a range of local issues. For more information, visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/1585](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1585) or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

#### MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-057](#) Regular County Council for June 9, 2026
2. [MIN2026-058](#) Committee of the Whole for June 9, 2026
3. [MIN2026-059](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for June 23, 2026
4. [MIN2026-060](#) Committee of the Whole for June 23, 2026
5. [MIN2026-061](#) Regular County Council for June 23, 2026
6. [MIN2026-062](#) Special Committee of the Whole for June 16, 2026
7. [MIN2026-063](#) Special Council for June 30, 2026

**PUBLIC HEARINGS (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE)**

Council offers in-person and remote participation in Public Hearings. If you are attending the meeting in person, Public Hearing sign-up sheets will be available in Council Chambers. To participate remotely, please visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) and register for a Zoom link by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting. Speakers are given three minutes to address the Council and are asked to state their name for the record. Those participating on-site in Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who registered to speak remotely. Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

The following public hearing items regarding the comprehensive plan periodic update required by the Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) will be combined into one public hearing. Members of the public will have 3 minutes to speak once on all items on the combined public hearing on the comprehensive plan periodic update (items 1-3).

1. [AB2026-488](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE - CONCURRENT REVIEW**

Council will act concurrently on items 1-3 regarding the comprehensive plan periodic update required by the Growth Management Act (Chapter 36.70A RCW) .

1. [AB2026-488](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)
3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

**OPEN SESSION**

Council offers in-person and remote participation in Open Session. If you are attending the meeting in person, Open Session sign-up sheets will be available in Council Chambers. To participate remotely, please visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) and register for a Zoom link by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting. Open Session is an opportunity to address Council on issues not scheduled for a public hearing. Speakers are given three minutes to speak and are asked to state their name for the record. Those participating on-site in Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who registered to speak remotely. Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

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**

Consent agenda items may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received background material on all items, and committee review has taken place 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. [AB2026-438](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham Police Department to maintain munitions inventory at the Whatcom County Central Shop, in the amount of \$0
2. [AB2026-496](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Status Electrical Corporation to provide technical support for the security electronics at the juvenile detention facility, main jail, jail work center, and facilities management, in the amount of \$69,442 for a total amended contract amount of \$253,615
3. [AB2026-500](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for reimbursement of expenses resulting from the winter weather in December 2025, in an amount to be determined
4. [AB2026-503](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and WA Department of Ecology to restore Olympia oysters in North Chuckanut Bay, in the amount of \$50,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

5. [AB2026-505](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal cooperative purchasing agreement with the Whatcom County Rural Library District (WCLS) to allow reciprocal utilization of competitively bid contracts, pursuant to RCW Chapter 39.34 Interlocal Cooperation Act
6. [AB2026-511](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to increase funding for flood mitigation planning in Sumas, Nooksack, and Everson, in the amount of \$207,400 for a total amended amount of \$1,517,400 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-527](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide Floodplains by Design funding to build upon existing Floodplain Integrated Planning efforts to reduce flood hazard, increase flood resiliency, and improve habitat, in the amount of \$10,000,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
8. [AB2026-528](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the University of Washington for completion of Phase 2 sediment work near Everson and evaluating alternatives proposed as part of the Widen the Corridor project, in the amount of \$209,814 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
9. [AB2026-529](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the continued purpose of sediment modeling on the lower Nooksack River, in the amount of \$60,000 for a total agreement amount of \$295,050 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
10. [AB2026-533](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Office of Public Defense regarding Chapter 10.101 RCW, Indigent Defense Services, in the amount of \$435,995
11. [AB2026-536](#) 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 Uniform Guardianship Act, in the amount of \$89,144
12. [AB2026-537](#) 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 Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program, in the amount of \$122,250

13. [AB2026-538](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service for funding for a deputy to patrol Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest lands in the amount of \$56,760
14. [AB2026-539](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement of costs related to BECCA programs, in the amount of \$232,776
15. [AB2026-540](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Mobile Mama Strategies Inc. to provide perinatal mental health services to vulnerable families through continuation of a mental health workforce pilot project, in the amount of \$199,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$496,335
16. [AB2026-541](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to increase funding for the 2025-2027 Consolidated Contract Grant, which supports the delivery and funding of various public health services in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$3,521,984 for a total amended agreement amount of \$14,856,181
17. [AB2026-542](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center to provide conflict resolution workshops for youth, in the amount of \$35,000
18. [AB2026-543](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Military for Operation Stonegarden FY25, in the amount of \$170,625

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)**

1. [AB2026-480](#) Resolution requiring additional public notice of proposed Whatcom County Council action to increase taxes
2. [AB2026-514](#) Resolution regarding authorization for application to Public Works Board funding for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project
3. [AB2026-544](#) Resolution designating the revenue distribution from forest service payments

## **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-427](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, childcare position, Applicant(s): Courtney Whitaker, Kristine Wilson

**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. [AB2026-504](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations (Council acting as the Health Board)
2. [AB2026-508](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$34,830 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
3. [AB2026-518](#) Ordinance declaring public necessity for and the authorization to acquire certain property rights by eminent domain for the Birch Bay Lynden Road and Blaine Road Intersection Improvements Project
4. [AB2026-520](#) Resolution establishing a new Whatcom County Ferry District Fund (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)
5. [AB2026-521](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)
6. [AB2026-522](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$4.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-524](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.34 Ferry Rates
8. [AB2026-525](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.36.060, Ferry Multi-Ride Cards and Quarterly Passes, Replacement Appeal Procedure
9. [AB2026-526](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 16.20, Whatcom County Shellfish Protection Districts
10. [AB2026-530](#) Ordinance closing the Central Plaza Tenant Improvement Fund
11. [AB2026-534](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$252,250

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