

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

**Tuesday, July 14, 2026
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); AGENDA REVISION 7.14.2026**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-057](#) Regular County Council for June 9, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2026-058](#) Committee of the Whole for June 9, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [MIN2026-059](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for June 23, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [MIN2026-060](#) Committee of the Whole for June 23, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

5. [MIN2026-061](#) Regular County Council for June 23, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [MIN2026-062](#) Special Committee of the Whole for June 16, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

7. [MIN2026-063](#) Special Council for June 30, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE)

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC HEARING

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)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final)

SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-488

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)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final)

SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-488

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)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final)

SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-488

SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

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)

NOT ACTED UPON

Note: AB2026-553 showing substantive changes related to Sumas UGA is on for introduction later in this agenda. If a motion to introduce passes, a public hearing will be scheduled for 7/28/2026.

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)

HELD IN COUNCIL

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold and schedule a public hearing and concurrent review on July 28, 2026 (alongside AB2026-553 and AB2026-490)

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)

HELD IN COUNCIL

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold and schedule a public hearing and concurrent review on July 28, 2026 (alongside AB2026-553 and AB2026-489)

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE - CONCURRENT REVIEW

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)

NOT ACTED UPON

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)

NOT ACTED UPON

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)

NOT ACTED UPON

OPEN SESSION**CONSENT AGENDA****(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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

SUBSTITUTE APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-028

2. [AB2026-514](#) Resolution regarding authorization for application to Public Works Board funding for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-029

3. [AB2026-544](#) Resolution designating the revenue distribution from forest service payments

TABLED

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

Nay: 0

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

APPOINTED

Appointed Courtney Whitaker with five votes

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2026-552](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.7 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmer

2. [AB2026-553](#) 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)

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmer

Motion approved to introduce and schedule a public hearing for July 28th and make it a combined public hearing with AB2026-489 and AB2026-490 for concurrent review.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

1. [AB2026-504](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations (Council acting as the Health Board)

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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)

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

4. [AB2026-520](#) Resolution establishing a new Whatcom County Ferry District Fund (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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)

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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)

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

7. [AB2026-524](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.34 Ferry Rates

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

9. [AB2026-526](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 16.20, Whatcom County Shellfish Protection Districts

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

10. [AB2026-530](#) Ordinance closing the Central Plaza Tenant Improvement Fund

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

11. [AB2026-534](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$252,250

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN