

Whatcom County Council

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, July 8, 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); AGENDA REVISED 7.7.2025**

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

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

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

There was no report.

MINUTES CONSENT

Byrd moved to accept the minutes consent items. The motion was seconded by Buchanan (see votes on individual items below).

1. [MIN2025-038](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for June 24, 2025

Byrd moved and Buchanan seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2025-039](#) Committee of the Whole for June 24, 2025

Byrd moved and Buchanan seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [MIN2025-040](#) Regular County Council for June 24, 2025

Byrd moved and Buchanan seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2025-418](#) Ordinance granting Whatcom County Water District #7 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the Public Hearing.

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-032

2. [AB2025-420](#) Ordinance granting Whatcom County Water District #2 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the Public Hearing.

Donovan moved and Byrd seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-033

3. [AB2025-422](#) Ordinance granting Whatcom County Water District #18 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the Public Hearing.

Byrd moved and Scanlon seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-034

OPEN SESSION

The following people spoke:

- Adam Bellinger
- Dave Chase
- Jeff Margolis
- Daniel Harm
- Jessica Silver
- Wayne Harrison
- Brian Armstrong
- Hannah Ordos
- Natalie Chavez

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Open Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** to approve Consent Agenda items one through four.

Consent Agenda item #4 (AB2025-501)

Byrd spoke about an earlier concern about whether the contract amount is enough for the Sheriff's deputy. He spoke to the undersheriff who clarified that some years they do not use all of it, and explained how they track and bill for the hours worked.

Councilmembers voted on the Consent items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2025-495](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to provide funding for flood mitigation planning in Sumas, Nooksack, and Everson, in the amount of \$1,310,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-497](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families for services related to programming for juvenile offenders under the supervision of Juvenile Court

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-500](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for services related to the Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP), in the amount of \$112,500

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-501](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and US Dept of Agriculture, Forest Service to increase the contract amount by \$56,760

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)

1. [AB2025-479](#) Discussion and request for motion regarding draft Justice Project Stakeholder Group Charters

Buchanan reported for the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and moved that the SUBSTITUTE Charters be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Byrd

Approved Substitute Charters

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. [AB2025-510](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Bruce Tabb and Sati Mookherjee to the Whatcom County Public Facilities District Board

Donovan moved and Byrd seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2025-516](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award Bid #25-37 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Summit Construction Group, Inc., for renovations and additions to the Van Zandt Community Hall, in the amount of \$823,544

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Bid Award be AUTHORIZED.

Scanlon stated this is a great example of partnership between community and various levels of government.

Donovan's motion that the Bid Award be AUTHORIZED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Buchanan moved to introduce items one through eight. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

Stremler stated he would not pull item eight out to vote on separately as discussed in committee (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2025-482](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code section 10.04.095 to establish 20 mph

school speed zones on Bennett Drive and Alderwood Avenue for Alderwood Elementary School

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-485](#) Ordinance granting Percie Road Water Association a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-487](#) Ordinance granting Point Roberts Water District #4 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Buchanan moved that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-488](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Birch Bay-Lynden Road and Blaine Road Intersection Improvements Fund; CRP #906001, request no. 1

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-492](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the E. Smith/Hannegan Road Intersection Improvements Fund, request no. 4

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-494](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Fund, request no. 1

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-498](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 8

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-502](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 8, in the amount of \$3,548,146

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

Councilmembers gave committee reports and discussed:

- The possibility of having the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (IPRTF) (**AB2025-489**) advise the Council on budget
- Whether the Sheriff has provided speed limit enforcement at Bennett Drive and Alderwood Ave (**AB2025-481 and 482**), and asking the Public Works Department how previously lowering the speed limit worked out

Councilmembers gave updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger