

Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

2:05 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY/LATE - ADJOURNS BY 2:35 P.M.
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
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

Call To Order

Committee Chair Jessica Rienstra called the meeting to order at 1:56 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2026-463](#) Resolution approving a one-year extension for the Major Project Permit for the City of Bellingham

Amy Keenan, Planning and Development Services Department, briefed the councilmembers and read from the Staff Memo (on file).

Galloway moved and Boyle seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and Keenan answered questions.

She answered if potential downsizing or a change of zoning of the urban growth area (UGA) just on the other side of Northwest would impact the Bear Creek project and the wetlands mitigation bank, and stated she does not think so. She answered if there is anything else coming to Council regarding this project and stated this is the last bit.

Galloway's motion that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-472](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2025-025 to update rules of the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner by approving clarifying changes promulgated by the Hearing Examiner

Rajeev Majumdar, Hearing Examiner, briefed the councilmembers on the resolution. He answered how much of his work are things that are contested versus issues for approval, and if there is anything the Council can do to make sure that he is not so busy with appeals.

Galloway moved and Scanlon seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following

vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-478](#) Resolution authorizing grant application submission and signing authority for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Farmland Preservation grants for the Steensma, Jensen, and Cloud Mountain Farm Center applications

Lauren Templeton, Planning and Development Services Department, stated there are three applications that will be due July 15th and this resolution is a requirement by the Recreation and Conservation Office to approve the submission of these applications. It will still need to come back to Council for the grant agreement if the grant funds are approved, as well as approval to purchase the easement, and for a supplemental budget request.

Galloway moved and Boyle seconded that the Resolution be RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Jessica Rienstra-via email 6/30/2026

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Jessica Rienstra, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE