

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September 9, 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 9.5.2025**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmer

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council is currently holding meetings in hybrid format with options for in-person or remote viewing and participation. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to speak remotely. Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the Council's meetings are asked to contact the Council Office at 360.778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

The County is accepting applications from county residents to fill vacancies on several boards, commissions, and committees spanning a wide range of important local issues. For more information, visit the Boards and Commissions vacancy webpage on the County website or call the Council Office or County Executive's Office.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2025-045](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 22, 2025
2. [MIN2025-046](#) Regular County Council for July 22, 2025
3. [MIN2025-047](#) Committee of the Whole for July 22, 2025
4. [MIN2025-048](#) Special Council for July 22, 2025
5. [MIN2025-049](#) Special Council and Planning Commission for August 6, 2025
6. [MIN2025-050](#) Committee of the Whole for August 6, 2025
7. [MIN2025-051](#) Regular County Council for August 6, 2025
8. [MIN2025-052](#) Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board for July 29, 2025
9. [MIN2025-053](#) Special Committee of the Whole for July 29, 2025

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Participants requesting to speak during public hearings may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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1. [AB2025-537](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Title 22 to clarify the roles and duties of participants in the Hearing Examiner process
2. [AB2025-538](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 2.11 to clarify the authority of the Hearing Examiner
3. [AB2025-539](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2024-021 to update Business Rules of the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner to approve clarifying changes promulgated by the Hearing Examiner
4. [AB2025-546](#) Review final project performance on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Program

OPEN SESSION

Participants requesting to speak during open session may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

During open session, audience members may speak to the council on issues not scheduled for public hearing. All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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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

Items under this section of the agenda may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received and studied background material on all items. Committee review has taken place on these items, 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. [AB2025-580](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization to fund the Recovery Navigator Program to enhance LEAD programming in the amount of \$256,227.50, for a total amended contract amount of \$1,639,137.50
2. [AB2025-582](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Whatcom Law Group/Rajeev Majumdar for 2026 hearing examiner services, in an amount of \$118,779.60, for a total amended contract amount of \$344,599.60

3. [AB2025-583](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority to provide funding for the Alternative Response Team (ART) Program in the amount of \$1,174,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$4,561,000
4. [AB2025-586](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) for the Registered Sex Offendor Address and Residency Verification Program, in the amount of \$130,767.67
5. [AB2025-589](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Snohomish County for neuropathology services, in the amount of \$4,500
6. [AB2025-604](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Administrative Office of the Courts to support Mental Health Court, in the amount of \$194,198
7. [AB2025-606](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a five year grant agreement between Whatcom County and the US Forest Service for the Offender Forestry Work Crew Program in the amount of \$540,062.62
8. [AB2025-607](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology for Watershed Resources Inventory Area No. 1 (WRIA 1) water rights adjudication technical assistance, in the amount of \$200,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
9. [AB2025-609](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a 15-month contract between Whatcom County and Trinity Services Group, Inc., for Jail Food Services, in the amount of \$1,239,500
10. [AB2025-611](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Summit Construction Group, Inc for tenant improvements and HVAC replacement at the Parks Department administrative office and annex in the amount of \$58,694 for a total amended contract amount of \$999,950
11. [AB2025-613](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide a Washington Conservation Corps Crew and supervisor, in the amount of \$258,720 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

12. [AB2025-615](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority to expand the operational capabilities of the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion//Let Everyone Advance with Dignity (LEAD) Program in the amount of \$1,466,580, for a total amended agreement amount of \$1,886,580
13. [AB2025-621](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority to coordinate and implement prevention programs and strategies in the amount of \$2,350,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$3,670,000
14. [AB2025-622](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the Opportunity Council for operation of the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center in the amount of \$50,000 in 2025 and \$51,500 annually thereafter, for a total contract amount of \$155,412 in 2025 and \$156,912 annually thereafter
15. [AB2025-624](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lydia Place to support the rehabilitation and remodel of a transitional housing facility for large families, in the amount of \$166,950
16. [AB2025-625](#) 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 Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) Program, in the amount of \$84,523
17. [AB2025-626](#) 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 Becca cases regarding At-Risk Youth, Truancy, and Child in Need of Services, in the amount of \$98,853
18. [AB2025-627](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Trinity Food Services Group for food services for juvenile detention, in the amount not to exceed \$10,476 for the remainder of 2025 and \$41,904 for 2026

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-558](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 9, in the amount of \$956,986
2. [AB2025-587](#) Request for motion to approve the 2025-2027 Criminal Justice Treatment Account (CJTA) Plan

3. [AB2025-612](#) Request Council review and approval of the Economic Development Board's recommendation for 2026 funding for infrastructure and housing projects

(No Committee Assignment)

4. [AB2025-591](#) Request for motion to select a Councilmember to participate in the Whatcom Transit Authority (WTA) Board Composition Review meeting
5. [AB2025-623](#) Request for motion to appoint two Councilmembers to participate in the Planning and Development Services Director recruitment process
6. [AB2025-584](#) Resolution establishing regular Whatcom County Council meeting dates for 2026

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-549](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force, applicant(s): Alycia Francis, Heather Carson, and Angela Marie Shapow
2. [AB2025-570](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Board of Equalization, Applicant(s): Wes Van De Mark

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

Per Whatcom County Code 2.03.070(B), the council must confirm or reject executive appointments within 30 days of submission to the council. County code deems the appointee confirmed if council does not take action within this time.

1. [AB2025-590](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Laura Castro-Benzing to the Northwest Senior Services Board
2. [AB2025-593](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Kendra Dupuy to the Whatcom County Ethics Commission
3. [AB2025-620](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Champ Thomaskutty as Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services Department, effective October 27, 2025

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. **AB2025-638** Resolution amending Resolution 2025-013 to docket an additional comprehensive plan and zoning amendment related to related to Whatcom County Code Chapter 20.40 to include agriculture storage as a primary permitted use

ITEM ADDED 9.5.2025

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. [AB2025-597](#) Resolution to declare Whatcom County real property as surplus and approve transfer
2. [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)
3. [AB2025-614](#) Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the Jail Reentry Improvements project
4. [AB2025-628](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$1,820,416

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN