

Whatcom County Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

11:35 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY - ADJOURNS BY 12:00 P.M.
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT
www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Jon Scanlon

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Committee Chair Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, and Jon Scanlon

Also Present: Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, and Mark Stremmler

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-619](#) Discussion of the Justice Center Project with the Executive's Office, Facilities Management Division, and the Justice Center Owner's Representative

Rob Ney, Administrative Services Department Facilities, read from a presentation (on file) about where they are with the Justice Facility Project. He answered questions about the preferred design build team

Scanlon thanked Ney for using some local workforce on this project.

Ney answered whether there was language that stated that not only union subcontractor shops could apply, and stated as of right now, the contract they have in place is just for the design services, and the construction part of it will come later next year. As of right now there are no conditions on any of these sub-trades. The way it is written is wide open so they can find the absolute best candidate that is going to fill each part of the contract.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, stated that STV is also online and has additional slides to share if there is time.

Ashley McClaran, STV, spoke about creating a Joint Advisory Workgroup as the mechanism to keep the process moving forward and to get any needed input between scheduled Finance and Facility Advisory Board (FFAB) and Council meetings. She spoke about the makeup of the workgroup (members of the FFAB, Council, IPRTF, small cities, and the City of Bellingham) and stated that group would join the design meetings so that when there is a Council or FFAB meeting, some of the information has already been socialized.

She spoke about what the process of scenario development and selection might look like in the next few months, in order to get to a final scenario by

February or March of 2026 and program/budget approval in March or April. She spoke about what factors would be considered in developing scenarios.

Schott-Bresler spoke about upcoming presentations to the FFAB and IPRTF, including one on a proposed model for the Behavioral Care Center. That presentation will also be brought to Council in the coming weeks.

Buchanan stated they are also trying to set up a meeting to start talking about what town halls might look like as a form of public engagement. They will hopefully have more information on that in a couple weeks.

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Barry Buchanan-via email 9/22/2025

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE