

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole-Executive Session

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



Committee Minutes - Final

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

8:40 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 9:15 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE
REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR
CALL 360.778.5010)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Committee Discussion

Attorney Present: Kellen Kooistra, Kimberly Thulin, and Dennis McLerran (Cascadia Law).

Galloway stated that discussion of agenda item one may take place in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). Executive session will conclude no later than 9:15 a.m. If the meeting extends beyond the stated conclusion time, the Council chair will make a public announcement.

Byrd moved to go into executive session until no later than 9:15 a.m. to discuss the agenda item pursuant to the RCW citation as announced by the Council Chair. The motion was seconded by Buchanan.

Donovan stated he was hoping they could have a discussion before they go into executive session so they can get an understanding of what they can talk about publicly. He asked if they are going to get a public presentation about this whole thing so people know what has happened and what decisions were made by the executive regarding enforcement.

Kellen Kooistra, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered what of this topic can or should be public versus disclosed in executive session.

Scanlon stated he does not think they have had enough discussion and he thinks there ought to be a public discussion about what the gaps were in our code and enforcement because that is about the County's code and how it enforces its code. He would like to discuss whether there is anything that they need to change to make sure that something like this does not happen again.

Galloway stated maybe that can discuss the matter on their agenda today which is subject to an executive session, then they can schedule a follow up to discuss the gaps in code and enforcement. She stated they can have the executive session and figure out how they want to move forward.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 2 - Buchanan and Donovan

Councilmembers entered executive session at 8:48 a.m.

1. [AB2025-531](#) Discussion with Planning and Development Services Director Mark Personius, outside council Dennis McLerran of Cascadia Law, and Deputy Prosecutor Kellen Kooistra regrading Petrogas permitting and enforcement. [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i).]

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 9:16 a.m.

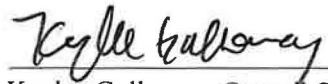
The County Council approved these minutes on September 9, 2025.

ATTEST:



Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA



Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger