

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 - Draft Minutes

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

8:45 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 9:10 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISION 3.16.2026

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

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 8:47 a.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

1. [AB2026-189](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Jesse Corkern, regarding Samantha L. Robinson v. Whatcom County et al., Skagit County Superior Court Cause No. 26-2-00233-29; Defense and indemnification of Donnell Tanksley, Whatcom County Sheriff, Lt. Keith Linderman, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and Detective Derek Jones, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, named as defendants. [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1) (i)]

Attorneys Present: Jesse Corkern, Kimberly Thulin

Galloway stated that discussion of the agenda item may take place in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). Executive session will conclude no later 9:10 a.m. If the meeting extends beyond the stated conclusion time, the Council Chair will make an announcement.

Buchanan moved to enter executive session until no later than 9:10 a.m. to discuss the agenda item pursuant to the RCW citation as announced by the Council Chair. Rienstra seconded the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Councilmembers entered executive session at 8:49 a.m.

At 9:12 a.m., Galloway announced an extension of Executive Session until no later than 9:17 a.m.

Council returned from executive session at 9:17 a.m.

Scanlon moved to approve defense and indemnification of Donnell Tanksley, Whatcom County Sheriff, Lt. Keith Linderman, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and Detective Derek Jones, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, named as defendants in Samantha L. Robinson v. Whatcom County et al., Skagit County Superior Court, Cause No. 26-2-00233-29 based on the following findings: Donnell Tanksley, Keith Linderman and Derek Jones were acting in a matter in which the county had an interest; Donnell Tanksley, Keith Linderman and Derek Jones were acting in the discharge of a duty imposed or authorized by law; Donnell Tanksley, Keith Linderman and Derek Jones acted in good faith. Boyle seconded the motion.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

This agenda item was DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED.

Motion approved 7-0 to approve defense and indemnification of Donnell Tanksley, Whatcom County Sheriff, Lt. Keith Linderman, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, and Detective Derek Jones, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office, named as defendants in Samantha L. Robinson v. Whatcom County et al., Skagit County Superior Court, Cause No. 26-2-00233-29. Based on the following findings: Donnell Tanksley, Keith Linderman and Derek Jones were acting in a matter in which the county had an interest; Donnell Tanksley, Keith Linderman and Derek Jones were acting in the discharge of a duty imposed or authorized by law; Donnell Tanksley, Keith Linderman and Derek Jones acted in good faith.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Jenna Gernand