

Whatcom County Council

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, July 28, 2026
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 REVISION 7.27.2026

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

There was no report.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2026-461](#) Ordinance granting Forged Fiber 37, LLC a non-exclusive franchise for the purposes of offering and providing telecommunications services

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and the following people spoke:

- Brian Gass
- Carly Nations
- Natalie Chavez

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Public Hearing.

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED.

Andrew Hester, Public Works Department, answered what is done with a new provider to avoid running into issues such as those around cultural resources. He stated the franchise agreement is simply the mechanism for allowing the utility providers to work within the right of way and any work they do within the right of way has to follow all local, county, state, and federal laws.

Roland Middleton, Public Works Department, stated any disturbance in an installation requires a revocable encroachment permit so the franchise agreement does not give the provider carte blanche to just start digging up ditches. He answered if someone else can apply for the same right of way

and stated they can.

**Scanlon's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be
ADOPTED carried by the following vote:**

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-035

PUBLIC HEARINGS (FERRY DISTRICT)

THE FOLLOWING FERRY DISTRICT FILES HAD ONE COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING (SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-520).

1. [AB2026-520](#) Resolution establishing a new Whatcom County Ferry District Fund (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

Galloway stated this would be a combined public hearing for AB2026-520, AB2026-552, AB2026-521 (has a substitute), AB2026-522 (has a substitute), AB2026-524, and AB2026-525.

Clerk's note: This file includes the hearing and discussion notes for all of those items.

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and the following people spoke:

- Terry Diffley
- Laura Bracken
- Brian Gass
- Charles Bailey
- David Kershner
- Rhayma Blake
- Cara Blake
- Kathleen Gallagher
- Pam Gould
- Markis Dee Stidham
- Jim Shaver
- Ryan Bowman

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Public Hearing.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

Enactment No: RES 2026-030

2. [AB2026-552](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.7 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

See hearing and discussion notes under AB2026-520.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

Enactment No: RES 2026-031

3. [AB2026-521](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

See hearing and discussion notes under AB2026-520.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

4. [AB2026-522](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$4.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

See hearing and discussion notes under AB2026-520.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

5. [AB2026-524](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.34, Ferry Rates

See hearing and discussion notes under AB2026-520.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

Enactment No: ORD 2026-036

6. [AB2026-525](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.36.060, Ferry Multi-Ride Cards and Quarterly Passes, Replacement Appeal Procedure

See hearing and discussion notes under AB2026-520.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

Enactment No: ORD 2026-037

PUBLIC HEARINGS (FERRY DISTRICT) CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

1. [AB2026-520](#) Resolution establishing a new Whatcom County Ferry District Fund (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 1 - Elenbaas

Enactment No: RES 2026-030

2. [AB2026-552](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.7 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

Galloway stated they would deal with this and the next two files sequentially, but once they reach a council majority on one of them, no action would be needed for the one(s) remaining.

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be APPROVED.

Councilmembers discussed how this option compares to the other two, that if they go with an initial budget of \$4.2 million (AB2026-522) they would be using the Road Fund again in two years, if they go with an initial budget of \$5.2 million (AB2026-521) they would be using the Road Fund in 10 years, and if they go with this initial budget level (\$5.7 million), using the Road fund would be 19 years into the future, and that may help to bring back the maintenance and operations road crews. They discussed the motion.

Buchanan's motion that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be APPROVED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: RES 2026-031

3. [AB2026-521](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

4. [AB2026-522](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$4.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

5. [AB2026-524](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.34, Ferry Rates

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public

Hearing be ADOPTED.

Scanlon stated the Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee will advise the Council, in their role as the Board of Supervisors, and the executive on the fund and levy they just voted to create and there are two open seats.

Scanlon's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-036

6. [AB2026-525](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.36.060, Ferry Multi-Ride Cards and Quarterly Passes, Replacement Appeal Procedure

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 1 - Elenbaas

Enactment No: ORD 2026-037

PUBLIC HEARINGS (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE)

THE FOLLOWING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FILES HAD ONE COMBINED PUBLIC HEARING (SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-553).

1. [AB2026-553](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated this will be a combined public hearing for AB2026-553 (a revised substitute), AB2026-489 (a revised substitute), and AB2026-490 (a revised substitute) and she read them into the record.

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and the following people spoke:

- Bill Geyer
- Ryan Bowman
- Brian Gass
- Leah Clark
- Patrick Alesse
- Lyle Sorenson

- Perry Eskridge
- Kyle Gebhardt
- Barbara Chase
- Dan Williams

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Public Hearing.

Councilmembers considered each of the files separately (see below).

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

Enactment No: ORD 2026-038

2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

See hearing and discussion notes under AB2026-553.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

Enactment No: ORD 2026-039

3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

See hearing and discussion notes under AB2026-553.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final).

Enactment No: ORD 2026-040

PUBLIC HEARINGS (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE)
CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

1. [AB2026-553](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated they would be considering the revised substitute.

Scanlon moved to adopt and forward for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals (AB2026-489 and AB2026-490) scheduled later this evening.

The motion was seconded by Boyle.

Councilmembers discussed the motion.

Scanlon's motion that the REVISED SUBSTITUTE Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED and forwarded for concurrent review carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-038

Motion approved 5-2 to adopt and forward for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals (AB2026-489 and AB2026-490) scheduled later this evening.

Adopted the "Revised Substitute Ordinance for 7.28.2026 (corrected)."

2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated this is a revised substitute.

Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded to adopt and forward for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals (AB2026-553 and AB2026-490) scheduled later this evening.

Boyle's motion that the REVISED SUBSTITUTE Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED and forwarded for concurrent review carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-039

Motion approved 5-2 to adopt and forward for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals (AB2026-553 and AB2026-490) scheduled later this evening.

Adopted the "Revised Substitute Ordinance for 7.14.2026."

3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated this is a revised substitute.

Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded to adopt and forward for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals (AB2026-553 and AB2026-489) scheduled later this evening.

Boyle's motion that the REVISED SUBSTITUTE Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED and forwarded for concurrent review carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-040

Motion approved 5-2 to adopt and forward for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals (AB2026-553 and AB2026-489) scheduled later this evening.

Adopted the "Revised Substitute Ordinance for 7.14.2026."

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE - CONCURRENT REVIEW

Galloway read all three items for concurrent review into the record and one motion was made for all three items under this section.

Rienstra moved to approve the adopted items AB2026-553, AB2026-489, and AB2026-490 concurrently.

The motion was seconded by Scanlon.

Scanlon thanked the Planning and Development Services Department team for their work in support of this.

Councilmembers voted on the motion (see the motion and vote represented on each file below).

Motion approved 5-2 with Elenbaas and Stremmler opposed to approve the adopted items AB2026-553, AB2026-489, and AB2026-490 concurrently (see the motion and vote represented on each file below).

1. [AB2026-553](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

See motion in header above.

Rienstra's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be APPROVED CONCURRENTLY carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-038

2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

See motion in header above.

Rienstra's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be APPROVED CONCURRENTLY carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-039

3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

See motion in header above.

Rienstra's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be APPROVED CONCURRENTLY carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-040

OPEN SESSION

Clerk's note: Council took a short break at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

The following people spoke:

- Ryan Bowman
- Leah Clark
- Stephanie Anderson
- Markis Dee Stidham
- Natalie Chavez
- Stacey Dailey
- Name not stated

- Brian Gass
- Lyle Sorenson

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Open Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** to approve Consent Agenda items one through twelve and he spoke about what types of items are on the Consent Agenda. Councilmembers voted on those items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2026-555](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to relinquish a foot trail easement held by the Whatcom Land Trust, located within South Fork Park

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-563](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Attorney General's Office of Washington State to purchase an evidence refrigerator, in the amount of \$8,920

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-564](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Ferndale School District to fund mental health services for an additional year in the amount of \$300,530 for a total amended agreement amount of \$572,347

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-565](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Chinook Enterprises to provide support services to eligible individuals with developmental disabilities, in the estimated amount of \$74,878

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-566](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Island County for preventing the use of cannabis and commercial tobacco products by youth in the amount of \$37,000

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-567](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization for behavioral health services in the amount of \$725,761

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-568](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and PeaceHealth to provide two years of funding for a Perinatal Patient Navigator, providing mental health services for marginalized, disadvantaged, and medically complex pregnant patients in the amount of \$180,000

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2026-569](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and SCS Engineers to prepare an updated Comprehensive Solid

and Hazardous Waste Management Plan, in the amount of \$138,894

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2026-570](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and United General District 304 to reduce the use of cannabis and tobacco by youth in the amount of \$79,000

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-574](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment with the Washington State Department of Commerce to increase the total grant amount for the state fiscal year 2026 Domestic Violence Victim/Witness Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$74,218

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

11. [AB2026-575](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement to pass-through funds from the Washington State Military Department to the City of Bellingham for the operations of What-Comm in the amount of \$93,500 for fiscal year 2027

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

12. [AB2026-576](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement with the City of Bellingham for the pass-through of grant funds from the Washington State Military Department for fiscal year 2027 for What-Comm operations in the

amount of \$93,500

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee)

1. [AB2026-526](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 16.20, Whatcom County Shellfish Protection Districts

Galloway reported for the Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee and moved that the SUBSTITUTE Ordinance be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-041

2. [AB2026-556](#) Joint resolution of the Bellingham City Council and the Whatcom County Council adopting the Lake Whatcom Forest Management Plan

Galloway reported for the Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee and ***moved*** that the Resolution be APPROVED.

Elenbaas *moved* that they hold until they can get a recommendation or review from the Forest Advisory Committee.

The motion was seconded by Stremler.

Elenbaas spoke to his motion and the following people also spoke:

- Alexander Harris, Planning and Development Services Department and staff for the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)
- Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director

Councilmembers and the speakers discussed that the FAC deliberated on the Forest Management Plan in December but that there would be interest from the committee in discussing it further, that there is no time sensitivity to approving this resolution, that they could come back with a

recommendation in September but that the motion was an open-ended timeline and that it can be put on the Council's agenda once there is a recommendation, and that financing maintenance of the roads in the future could also be addressed.

Elenbaas' motion that the Resolution be HELD carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 that they hold until they can get a recommendation or review from the Forest Advisory Committee.

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

3. [AB2026-508](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$34,830 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be APPROVED.

Scanlon stated we receive some federal funds and federal support to repair some of the levees that were damaged from the December 2025 floods, and this is the local funding that is coming in to match the federal funding.

Scanlon's motion that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be APPROVED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-032

4. [AB2026-530](#) Ordinance closing the Central Plaza Tenant Improvement Fund

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Ordinance be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-042

5. [AB2026-534](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$252,250

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Ordinance be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-043

6. [AB2026-550](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the U.S. Department of Transportation for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project, in the amount of \$25,000,000

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED.

Councilmembers discussed that this is the largest grant the County has ever received, that if everything goes well, they can go to bid on the project by the end of the year, and that it is a statutory responsibility to maintain our roads and that this is a road system.

Scanlon's motion that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-582](#) Resolution designating an authorized representative and alternate authorized representative of Whatcom County to obtain federal and/or state emergency or disaster assistance funds on behalf of Whatcom County

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Resolution be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-033

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

8. [AB2026-504](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations (Council acting as the Health Board)

Boyle reported for the Public Works and Health Committee. She stated the title of this file states that it is the Council acting as the Health Board, but

that they cannot vote on it as the Health Board. They can either table it or not take any action.

Galloway stated this item is being introduced as **AB2026-559**, which just revises the title to remove Council acting as the Health Board.

Council concurred to take no action on this item. They can introduce **AB2026-559** (which has the same ordinance as in this file) and have discussion on that on August 11.

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

(No Committee Assignment)

9. [AB2026-501](#) Resolution establishing regular Whatcom County Council meeting dates for 2027
Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded that the Resolution be APPROVED.

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, stated she took into account when school districts here have spring break so that they would not have a meeting that week.

Boyle's motion that the Resolution be APPROVED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-034

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-551](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Alex Durney to the Conservation Easement Program Advisory Committee

Boyle moved and Buchanan seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

There were no agenda items added by revision.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Galloway stated Introduction item number 4 (**AB2026-580**) has a revised title.

Scanlon moved to introduce items one through five. The motion was seconded by Rienstra (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2026-499](#) Review final project performance on the 2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services grant and proposed activities for the 2026-2027 CDBG Public Services grant

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Special Executive Only Item be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-557](#) Resolution to sell tax title property by public auction, Mounces First Addition

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-559](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-580](#) Ordinance establishing the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345 and establishing an initial budget for the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-581](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$3,658,280

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

Councilmembers gave committee reports.

Galloway stated they will have a special meeting at 9 a.m. on August 4th to address the preliminary analysis of staffing and operating cost of a new jail which was discussed (and for which a motion was made) in the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee today.

Scanlon and Buchanan clarified that the committee did not take any action today to reduce the size of the jail.

Stremler moved that the Council docket 4610 Lincoln Rd for review to be included in the Birch Bay UGA as an affordable housing site with urban residential zoning subject to a special restriction via a Council Approved Development Agreement, all to be defined during and expedited review to be completed by the end of 2026.

The motion was seconded by Elenbaas.

Stremler spoke to his motion and stated it was maybe not given the due diligence he hoped it would get in the Comprehensive Plan process. With 23 items on the docket, who knows when it might rise to the top.

Councilmembers discussed if the motion would be emphasizing a policy direction to expedite it since it is already docketed, that there might be pre-requisites before it could move forward, and if they could schedule this item in the next Planning and Development Committee meeting or craft a resolution amending the docket.

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, suggested that instead of making a motion to formally include this on the docket, they schedule this for committee discussion at the next council meeting. She stated she has Growth Management Act (GMA) concerns with the motion and would appreciate some time for staff and legal review.

Councilmembers discussed their options and if they could work with staff to craft a resolution for the meeting in two weeks.

Stremler withdrew his motion.

Galloway stated they will plan on having it in the Planning Committee on August 11 and Stremmer can work with staff.

Clerk's note: Buchanan left the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Councilmembers gave updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger