

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, February 24, 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)**

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council meetings are held in a hybrid format with in-person and remote participation available. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil.

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance. Assistive listening devices are available in Council Chambers, and live captions are available through Zoom for those participating remotely.

Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

The County is accepting applications to fill vacancies on advisory groups for a range of local issues. For more information, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/1585 or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-014](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for February 10, 2026
2. [MIN2026-015](#) Committee of the Whole for February 10, 2026
3. [MIN2026-016](#) Regular County Council for February 10, 2026
4. [MIN2026-017](#) Health Board for February 3, 2026

OPEN SESSION

Council offers in-person and remote participation in Open Session. If you are attending the meeting in person, Open Session sign-up sheets will be available in Council Chambers. To participate remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register for a Zoom link by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting. Open Session is an opportunity to address Council on issues not scheduled for a public hearing. Speakers are given three minutes to speak and are asked to state their name for the record. Those participating on-site in Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who registered to speak remotely. Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

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

Consent agenda items may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received background material on all items, and committee review has taken place 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. [AB2026-137](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 for the period January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028
2. [AB2026-154](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology for the 2025-2027 Biennial Stormwater Capacity Grant, in the amount of \$120,000
3. [AB2026-156](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and North Whatcom Fire and Rescue to extend the current contract for fire investigation services by one year
4. [AB2026-160](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to execute a Federal Aid Project Prospectus for the design phase of the Lakeway Drive - City of Bellingham to Cable Street - Pavement Rehabilitation Project, County Road Project 925001, in the amount of \$251,000

5. [AB2026-162](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to reimburse the 5% local match obligation required in the four FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) grants, in the amount of \$1,500,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
6. [AB2026-163](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal cost reimbursement agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Lynden to support 30% design of Phase 1 of the Mouw Ditch early action project with pass-through funding from Floodplains through Design (FbD) 2023-25 grant, in the amount of \$113,600 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-164](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group to increase the project management task budget to assist homeowners participating in the Hazard Mitigation Elevation Grant Program, in the amount of \$80,000, for a total amount of \$200,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2026-145](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$1,804,963
2. [AB2026-114](#) Ordinance establishing the project budget for the Strawberry Point/Lake Whatcom Boulevard stormwater improvements, request no. 1
3. [AB2026-143](#) Ordinance establishing the Ferndale Senior Activity Center Improvements Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Ferndale Senior Activity Center Improvements Fund
4. [AB2026-134](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Courthouse Building Envelope Fund, request no. 7
5. [AB2026-165](#) Resolution to declare county-owned structures located at recently acquired property at South Fork Park as worthless

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

6. [AB2026-119](#) Resolution calling on the State Legislature to recognize public health as essential and to maintain Foundational Public Health Services funding (Council acting as the Health Board)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-115](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, business/industry position, applicant(s): Troy Lautenbach
2. [AB2026-128](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, representing higher education, applicant(s): Patricia Newbold
3. [AB2026-175](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee, geographic area representative, Applicant(s): Brian Dykstra (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

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. [AB2026-167](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Julie Bates to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission
2. [AB2026-168](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Douglas Bestle to the Whatcom County Veterans Advisory Board
3. [AB2026-169](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Nancy Whipple to the Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**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. [AB2026-040](#) Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits
2. [AB2026-172](#) Receipt of applications to a vacancy on the Planning Commission, District 1 or 5, Applicants: Lindsey Elenbaas, Gurdeep Bains, Selena Knoblauch, Jeremy Thompson (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2026)
3. [AB2026-173](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force, Applicant(s): Makela Alem (Deadline for applications to this vacancy is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 3, 2026)
4. [AB2026-170](#) Receipt of report on emergency contracts executed pursuant to the December 9, 2025 proclamation of emergency

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN