

# Whatcom County Council

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



## Action Summary

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

6 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://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

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

### FLAG SALUTE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-014](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for February 10, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [MIN2026-015](#) Committee of the Whole for February 10, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [MIN2026-016](#) Regular County Council for February 10, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [MIN2026-017](#) Health Board for February 3, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

### OPEN SESSION

### CONSENT AGENDA

**(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  
**SUBSTITUTE AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0
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  
**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0
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  
**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0
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  
**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0
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)  
**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0

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)

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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)

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

**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

**SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-010

The ordinance adopted was the "Substitute Ordinance for 2.24.2026" with a reduced total amount of \$319,393 (see also summary by fund and summary listing for 2.24.2026).

2. [AB2026-114](#) Ordinance establishing the project budget for the Strawberry Point/Lake Whatcom Boulevard stormwater improvements, request no. 1

**HELD IN COMMITTEE**

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

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved to postpone AB2026-114 to the March 24th Finance and Administrative Services Committee meeting.

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

**HELD IN COMMITTEE**

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

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved postpone AB2026-143 to the March 24th Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee meeting.

4. [AB2026-134](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Courthouse Building Envelope Fund, request no. 7

**HELD IN COMMITTEE**

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

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved to postpone AB2026-134 to the March 24th Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee meeting.

5. [AB2026-165](#) Resolution to declare county-owned structures located at recently acquired property at South Fork Park as worthless

**APPROVED**

**Aye:** 4 - Boyle, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 3 - Buchanan, Elenbaas, and Stremler

Enactment No: RES 2026-007

**(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)

**APPROVED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-008

**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

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-128](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, representing higher education, applicant(s): Patricia Newbold

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

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)

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved 6-1, with Stremmer opposed, to accept late applications.

Appointed Brian Dykstra and Samantha Doering.

### **CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-167](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Julie Bates to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission

**CONFIRMED**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-168](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Douglas Bestle to the Whatcom County Veterans Advisory Board

**CONFIRMED**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-169](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Nancy Whipple to the Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

**CONFIRMED**

**Aye:** 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

**ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

- 1. [AB2026-040](#) Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

- 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)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

- 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)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

- 4. [AB2026-170](#) Receipt of report on emergency contracts executed pursuant to the December 9, 2025 proclamation of emergency

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY**

- 1. [AB2026-040](#) Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Motion approved 7-0 hold until the workgroup, comprised of councilmembers Scanlon, Rienstra, and Elenbaas, have an opportunity to meet and complete the work.

The file was not introduced.

- 4. [AB2026-170](#) Receipt of report on emergency contracts executed pursuant to the December 9,

2025 proclamation of emergency

**RECEIVED**

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

**Nay:** 0

ACTION TWO ON AB2026-170

4. [AB2026-170](#) Receipt of report on emergency contracts executed pursuant to the December 9, 2025 proclamation of emergency

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

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

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved 7-0 to refer to Finance and Administrative Services Committee.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES**

**PART 1**

OTHER ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

- [AB2026-153](#) Discussion with Public Works staff regarding a potential property acquisition [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b)]

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

MOTION SUMMARY:

Motion approved 7-0 to authorize the County Executive, acting on behalf of the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District, to move forward with and complete the acquisition of the property as long as the purchase price of the property does not exceed the amount discussed in Executive Session.

- [AB2026-157](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Jesse Corkern, regarding Scott W. Hansen and Diane M. Hansen vs. Whatcom County Public Works Department et al., Whatcom County Superior Court, Cause No. 26-2-00133-37. Defense and indemnification of Elizabeth Kosa, Director, Whatcom County Public Works, Tyler Schroeder, Former Deputy Executive, Whatcom County and Matt Johnson, Road Crew Leader, Whatcom County Public Works named as defendants. [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1) (i)]

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

**MOTION SUMMARY:**

Motion approved 6-0, with Stremler abstaining, to approve defense and indemnification of Elizabeth Kosa, Director, Whatcom County Public Works, Tyler Schroeder, Former Deputy Executive, Whatcom County, Matt Johnson, Road Crew Leader, Whatcom County Public Works, named as defendants in Scott W. Hansen and Diane M. Hansen vs. Whatcom County Public Works Department et al., Whatcom County Superior Court, Cause No. 26-2-00133-37.

Based on the following findings:

- A. Elizabeth Kosa, Tyler Schroeder, and Matt Johnson were acting in a matter in which the county had an interest;
- B. Elizabeth Kosa, Tyler Schroeder, and Matt Johnson were acting in the discharge of a duty imposed or authorized by law;
- C. Elizabeth Kosa, Tyler Schroeder, and Matt Johnson acted in good faith.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES****PART 2****ADJOURN**