

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 8, 2025**

**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); AGENDA REVISED 7.7.2025

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway  
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 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

### ROLL CALL

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

### FLAG SALUTE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

There was no report.

### MINUTES CONSENT

*Byrd moved* to accept the minutes consent items. The motion was seconded by Buchanan (see votes on individual items below).

1. [MIN2025-038](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for June 24, 2025

**Byrd moved and Buchanan seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

2. [MIN2025-039](#) Committee of the Whole for June 24, 2025

**Byrd moved and Buchanan seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

3. [MIN2025-040](#) Regular County Council for June 24, 2025

**Byrd moved and Buchanan seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2025-418](#) Ordinance granting Whatcom County Water District #7 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the Public Hearing.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-032

2. [AB2025-420](#) Ordinance granting Whatcom County Water District #2 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the Public Hearing.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-033

3. [AB2025-422](#) Ordinance granting Whatcom County Water District #18 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the Public Hearing.

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

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-034

## **OPEN SESSION**

The following people spoke:

- Adam Bellinger
- Dave Chase
- Jeff Margolis
- Daniel Harm
- Jessica Silver
- Wayne Harrison
- Brian Armstrong
- Hannah Ordos
- Natalie Chavez

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Open Session.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)**

***Donovan*** reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** to approve Consent Agenda items one through four.

### Consent Agenda item #4 (AB2025-501)

Byrd spoke about an earlier concern about whether the contract amount is enough for the Sheriff's deputy. He spoke to the undersheriff who clarified that some years they do not use all of it, and explained how they track and bill for the hours worked.

Councilmembers voted on the Consent items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2025-495](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to provide funding for flood mitigation planning in Sumas, Nooksack, and Everson, in the amount of \$1,310,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT.**

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-497](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families for services related to programming for juvenile offenders under the supervision of Juvenile Court

**Donovan 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 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-500](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for services related to the Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program (FJCIP), in the amount of \$112,500

**Donovan 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 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-501](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and US Dept of Agriculture, Forest Service to increase the contract amount by \$56,760

**Donovan 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 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

## **OTHER ITEMS**

**(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)**

1. [AB2025-479](#) Discussion and request for motion regarding draft Justice Project Stakeholder Group Charters

**Buchanan reported for the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and moved that the SUBSTITUTE Charters be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 6 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Byrd

Approved Substitute Charters

### **CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

1. [AB2025-510](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Bruce Tabb and Sati Mookherjee to the Whatcom County Public Facilities District Board

**Donovan moved and Byrd seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

### **ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**

1. [AB2025-516](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award Bid #25-37 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Summit Construction Group, Inc., for renovations and additions to the Van Zandt Community Hall, in the amount of \$823,544

**Donovan** reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Bid Award be AUTHORIZED.

Scanlon stated this is a great example of partnership between community and various levels of government.

**Donovan's motion that the Bid Award be AUTHORIZED carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

### **INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

**Buchanan moved** to introduce items one through eight. The motion was seconded by Donovan.

Stremler stated he would not pull item eight out to vote on separately as discussed in committee (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2025-482](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code section 10.04.095 to establish 20 mph

school speed zones on Bennett Drive and Alderwood Avenue for Alderwood Elementary School

**Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2025-485](#) Ordinance granting Percie Road Water Association a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

**Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2025-487](#) Ordinance granting Point Roberts Water District #4 a franchise and the right, privilege, and authority thereunder to locate, set, erect, lay, construct, extend, support, attach, connect, maintain, repair, replace, enlarge, operate and use facilities in, upon, over, under, along, across and through the franchise area to allow for the provision of water services

**Buchanan moved that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2025-488](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Birch Bay-Lynden Road and Blaine Road Intersection Improvements Fund; CRP #906001, request no. 1

**Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2025-492](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the E. Smith/Hannegan Road Intersection Improvements Fund, request no. 4

**Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2025-494](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Fund, request no. 1

**Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2025-498](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 8

**Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2025-502](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 8, in the amount of \$3,548,146

**Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

Councilmembers gave committee reports and discussed:

- The possibility of having the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (IPRTF) (**AB2025-489**) advise the Council on budget
- Whether the Sheriff has provided speed limit enforcement at Bennett Drive and Alderwood Ave (**AB2025-481 and 482**), and asking the Public Works Department how previously lowering the speed limit worked out

Councilmembers gave updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

## **ADJOURN**



The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

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Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger