

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, January 27, 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

### FLAG SALUTE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council is currently holding meetings in hybrid format with options for in-person or remote viewing and participation. For instructions on remote participation, visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to speak remotely. Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the Council's meetings are asked to contact the Council Office at 360.778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

The County is accepting applications from county residents to fill vacancies on several boards, commissions, and committees spanning a wide range of important local issues. For more information, visit the Boards and Commissions vacancy webpage on the County website or call the Council Office or County Executive's Office.

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-008](#) Special Council for December 30, 2025

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Participants requesting to speak during public hearings may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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1. [AB2026-016](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 20.34 Rural Residential Island (RRI) to allow food preparation for off-site consumption when accessory to and located within an approved community center

## **OPEN SESSION**

Participants requesting to speak during open session may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

During open session, audience members may speak to the council on issues not scheduled for public hearing. All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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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**

Items under this section of the agenda may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received and studied background material on all items. Committee review has taken place on these items, 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. [AB2026-044](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center for Family Mediation Services, in the amount of \$70,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$135,000
2. [AB2026-052](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to amend the hourly rate of public safety radio repair from \$125 to \$150

3. [AB2026-056](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology for Whatcom Marine Resources Committee (MRC) operations and projects, in the amount of \$147,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
4. [AB2026-057](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Pacific Security to continue to provide Courthouse screening services, in the amount of \$90,000
5. [AB2026-058](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Birch Bay Water and Sewer District to coordinate the relocation of a segment of a water line and the construction road culvert, in the amount of \$0 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
6. [AB2026-059](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Pacific Security to continue evening patrol services of outside county buildings, in the amount of \$99,960
7. [AB2026-067](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Maple Falls Water Cooperative for water storage tank replacement, in the amount of \$555,300
8. [AB2026-070](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an amendment to an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham regarding the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence
9. [AB2026-077](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center for supervised visitation services, in the amount of \$115,000, for a total amended contract amount of \$226,000
10. [AB2026-090](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to grant a utility easement to Puget Sound Energy across park property for underground electrical services to a private residence located off Blue Canyon Road in South Lake Whatcom
11. [AB2026-096](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom County Sheriff's Office Management Group for the period January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027

## **OTHER ITEMS**

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

1. [AB2026-047](#) Resolution accepting the Treasurer's list of petitions for property tax refunds
2. [AB2026-050](#) Resolution canceling uncollectible personal property taxes
3. [AB2026-066](#) Resolution updating the Whatcom County section of the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) project list appendix

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

4. [AB2026-038](#) Request for motion on Behavioral Care Center model and location

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2025-806](#) Reconsideration of appointment to a position on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee, Member: Richard Gleason
2. [AB2026-109](#) Reconsideration of appointment to a position on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Member: Matthew Green
3. [AB2026-034](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Public Health Advisory Board, applicant(s): Mike Cohen, Christine Espina, Alison Fontaine, Carl Isom-McDaniel, Rachel McGarrity, Nathaline Nivens, Robyn Phillips-Madson, Deb Shawver, Markis Dee Stidham, Ashley Thomasson, Ben Twigg, Amelia Vader, Shu-Ling Zhao (Council acting as the Health Board)
4. [AB2026-113](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Acme/VanZandt Flood Control Subzone Advisory Committee, applicant(s): Valerie Lloyd (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. [AB2026-061](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Andrea Vance to the Whatcom County Veteran's Advisory Board
2. [AB2026-062](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of David Swanson to the Whatcom County Veteran's Advisory Board
3. [AB2026-063](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Stephen Gockley to the Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
4. [AB2026-064](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Dr. Shannon Boustead to the County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

5. [AB2026-065](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Kenneth Johnson to the Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
6. [AB2026-072](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Sukhmanjit Kaur to the Bellingham-Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence
7. [AB2026-073](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointments of Jessyca Murphy, Rosemarie Tom, and Krista Touros to the Bellingham Whatcom County Commission on Sexual and Domestic Violence
8. [AB2026-074](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of McKale Jones to the Whatcom County Conservation Program Easement Oversight Committee
9. [AB2026-075](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Michael Bratt to the Whatcom County Development Standards Technical Advisory Committee
10. [AB2026-076](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Todd Lagestee to the Whatcom County Ethics Commission
11. [AB2026-080](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Dan Dunne, Von Ochoa, and Adrienne Renz to the Whatcom County Housing Advisory Committee
12. [AB2026-081](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Abby Neal to the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee
13. [AB2026-082](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Elizabeth Lorence and Kathryn Ketteridge to the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee
14. [AB2026-083](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Elizabeth Mason and Jared Oberhaus to the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
15. [AB2026-085](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Franklin Boteler to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission
16. [AB2026-087](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of J. Riley Sweeney to the Whatcom County Library System Board, also known as the Rural Library Board
17. [AB2026-088](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Cathie Murphy to the North Sound Behavioral Organization Advisory Board
18. [AB2026-089](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Rhys-Thorvald Hansen to the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee
19. [AB2026-091](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Benny Spencer, Neesha Randeo, Sara O'Conner, and Sharayah Lane to the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission

**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.     [AB2026-094](#)     Ordinance closing the Northwest Annex Redevelopment Fund
2.     [AB2026-098](#)     Ordinance amending the project budget for the Hovander Park Building Improvements Project, request no. 4
3.     [AB2026-100](#)     Ordinance establishing the Glacier Restroom Improvements Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Glacier Restroom Improvements Fund
4.     [AB2026-102](#)     Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 10
5.     [AB2026-104](#)     Ordinance establishing the 32nd Street Property Acquisition Fund and establishing an initial budget for the 32nd Street Property Acquisition Fund
6.     [AB2026-110](#)     Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$7,123,065

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