

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, January 27, 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 REVISED 1.27.2026

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

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

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-002

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

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

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. [AB2026-047](#) Resolution accepting the Treasurer's list of petitions for property tax refunds

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-003

2. [AB2026-050](#) Resolution canceling uncollectible personal property taxes

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-004

3. [AB2026-066](#) Resolution updating the Whatcom County section of the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) project list appendix

SUBSTITUTE APPROVED

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

Nay: 1 - Elenbaas

Enactment No: RES 2026-005

(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)

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

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved 6-1, with Elenbaas opposed, that the Justice Project Behavioral Care Center be an out of custody model and a new build at the Division Street 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

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved 7-0 to vacate Mr. Gleason's position on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee and direct council staff to advertise the vacancy and collect qualified applications.

2. [AB2026-109](#) Reconsideration of appointment to a position on the Business and Commerce

Advisory Committee, Member: Matthew Green

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved 7-0 to vacate Mr. Green's position on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee and direct council staff to advertise the vacancy and collect qualified applications.

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)

APPOINTED

MOTION 1

Appointed all applicants.

MOTION 2

Appointed Alison Fontaine to the partial term ending January 31, 2027 with 4 votes.

MOTION 3

Appointed Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg to the partial term ending January 31, 2028 with 7 votes each.

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)

APPOINTED

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

Nay: 0

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-061](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Andrea Vance to the Whatcom County Veteran's Advisory Board

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-062](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of David Swanson to the Whatcom County Veteran's Advisory Board

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-063](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Stephen Gockley to the Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
4. [AB2026-064](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Dr. Shannon Boustead to the County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
5. [AB2026-065](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Kenneth Johnson to the Whatcom County Behavioral Health Advisory Committee
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
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
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
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
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
8. [AB2026-074](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of McKale Jones to the Whatcom County Conservation Program Easement Oversight Committee
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
9. [AB2026-075](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Michael Bratt to the Whatcom County Development Standards Technical Advisory Committee

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-076](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Todd Lagestee to the Whatcom County Ethics Commission

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

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

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

12. [AB2026-081](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Abby Neal to the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

13. [AB2026-082](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Elizabeth Lorence and Kathryn Ketteridge to the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

14. [AB2026-083](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Elizabeth Mason and Jared Oberhaus to the Point Roberts Community Advisory Committee

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

15. [AB2026-085](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Franklin Boteler to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

(Original motion) Motion approved 6-1, with Stremler opposed, to confirm (see reconsideration below).

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
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer
- Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas
17. [AB2026-088](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Cathie Murphy to the North Sound Behavioral Organization Advisory Board
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer
- Nay:** 0

Board name should read: North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services 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
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer
- Nay:** 0
15. [AB2026-085](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Franklin Boteler to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer
- Nay:** 0

Motion approved 7-0 to reconsider the first vote.

Then motion approved 7-0 to confirm.

19. [AB2026-091](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Benny Spencer, Neesha Randoe, Sara O'Conner, and Sharayah Lane to the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission
- CONFIRMED**
- Aye:** 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon
- Nay:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmer

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2026-118](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.40.010 to change the permit

threshold for outdoor musical entertainment, amusements and assemblies

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 1 - Elenbaas

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

1. [AB2026-094](#) Ordinance closing the Northwest Annex Redevelopment Fund

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

2. [AB2026-098](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Hovander Park Building Improvements Project, request no. 4

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

3. [AB2026-100](#) Ordinance establishing the Glacier Restroom Improvements Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Glacier Restroom Improvements Fund

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

4. [AB2026-102](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 10

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

5. [AB2026-104](#) Ordinance establishing the 32nd Street Property Acquisition Fund and establishing an initial budget for the 32nd Street Property Acquisition Fund

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

6. [AB2026-110](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$7,123,065

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmer

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN