

Whatcom County Council

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



Minutes - Final

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 Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

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

There was no report.

MINUTES CONSENT

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

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

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

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

Galloway opened the Public Hearing and the following people spoke:

- Rianna Godshall
- Simon Lapof
- Markis Dee
- Rhayma Blake
- Rebecca Rettmer

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Public Hearing.

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED.

Scanlon thanked everyone for bringing this to the County's attention.

Buchanan's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-002

OPEN SESSION

The following people spoke:

- Adam Bellingar
- David Edelman
- Brian Gass
- Dale Sandstrom
- Carl Crouse
- Jim Shaver
- Shawn Martinez
- Sally Crouse
- Jason Postma
- Cynthia Sue Ripke-Kutsagoitz
- Lucy Schmidt
- Markis Dee
- John Miller
- Judy Heinrichs
- Samantha (last name not stated)
- Stacey Dailey
- Brian Dykstra
- Dwayne Engelsman
- Enoch J Ledet
- John Westerfield
- Natalie Chavez

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Open Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and *moved* to approve Consent Agenda items one through eleven. Councilmembers voted on those items (see votes on individual items below).

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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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)

Scanlon 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 - 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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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)

Scanlon 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 - 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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon 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 - 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

Scanlon 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 - 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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Resolution be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Resolution be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Buchanan reported for the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and **moved** that the Justice Project Behavioral Care Center be an out of custody model and a new build at the Division Street location.

Scanlon thanked the executive's team, Health and Community Services. And the Sheriff's Office for all the work that went into this.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Elenbaas

This agenda item was 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

Jill Nixon, Council Office staff, stated the requested action from Council is to pass a motion to revoke his membership on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee (JPOP) committee and direct Council staff to advertise the vacancy, and collect applications for Council consideration in the future.

Scanlon moved 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.

The motion was seconded by Boyle.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

This agenda item was 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

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded 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.

Scanlon stated Council staff has provided a lot of record to the Council of outreach to these committee members.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

This agenda item was 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)

Scanlon, (acting as the Health Board Chair), stated they asked the members of and applicants for the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) if they fit the categories listed in County code and that information is on file. He stated they had 13 people who applied and there are 13 positions available.

Rienstra moved to consider these nominations to appoint. The motion was seconded by Buchanan.

Councilmembers discussed how to go about voting for the applicants, that there was a recommendation from the PHAB to consider holding a spot open for a member or representative of a tribe, that they did not have anyone who applied indicate that they were a member or representative of a tribe but that they do have people who have experience and expertise in working with tribes and tribal communities, and whether they should leave a spot open. They decided to vote for as many applicants as they would like of the 13 who applied and that applicants would need at least four votes to be appointed.

All applicants were appointed as follows:

Elenbaas: Markis Dee Stidham, Rachel McGarrity, Shu-Ling Zhao

Galloway: All applicants

Scanlon: All applicants

Stremler: All applicants except for Markis Dee Stidham

Buchanan: All applicants

Rienstra: All applicants

Boyle: All applicants

All applicants received six votes except for McGarrity and Zhao who received seven.

Councilmembers voted for one applicant from the list for the partial term ending January 31, 2027 and Alison Fontaine was appointed to that position with four votes as follows:

Scanlon: Alison Fontaine

Stremler: Carl Isom-McDaniel

Buchanan: Alison Fontaine
Rienstra: Alison Fontaine
Boyle: Ben Twigg
Elenbaas: Markis Dee Stidham
Galloway: Alison Fontaine

Councilmembers voted for two applicants from the list for the partial term ending January 31, 2028 and Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg were appointed to that position with seven votes each as follows:

Scanlon: Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg
Stremler: Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg
Buchanan: Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg
Rienstra: Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg
Boyle: Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg
Elenbaas: Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg
Galloway: Amelia Vader and Ben Twigg

This agenda item was 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)

Rienstra moved and Scanlon seconded that the Council Appointment be APPOINTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Rienstra moved and Buchanan seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Boyle moved and Rienstra seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Boyle moved and Rienstra seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Rienstra moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Boyle moved and Buchanan seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Rienstra moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Boyle moved and Buchanan seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Buchanan moved and Rienstra seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Rienstra moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Clerk's note: This item was voted on, then later after AB2026-089, councilmembers reconsidered this first vote and voted again. See notes after AB2026-089.

Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded to confirm.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Stremler

This agenda item was 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

Rienstra moved and Boyle seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

Boyle moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED.

Rienstra pointed out a scrivener's error in the name of the board. Councilmembers discussed that the name of the board should be North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization Advisory Board.

Boyle's motion that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED carried by the following vote:

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

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

Boyle moved and Buchanan seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Rienstra moved to reconsider **AB2026-085**.

The motion was seconded by Boyle.

The motion to reconsider carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Rienstra moved and Boyle seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

Boyle moved and Buchanan seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

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

Galloway reported from Committee of the Whole and stated this item was added for introduction after a recommendation to do so in committee.

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, noted that a scrivener's error (the code section) in the title was corrected.

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Kimberly Thulin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered whether the ordinance requires a public hearing and stated it does not.

Councilmembers and Council staff discussed whether they should hold a public hearing and what the process would be to notice that. Halka stated they could hold a hearing and take action on February 10th.

Galloway asked if the makers of the motion would accept, as a ***friendly amendment***, to have this be introduced and have a public hearing scheduled.

Buchanan and Scanlon accepted the friendly amendment.

Buchanan's motion that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 1 - Elenbaas

Enactment No: ORD 2026-003

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Scanlon moved to introduce items one through six. The motion was seconded by Buchanan (see votes on individual items below).

Galloway stated that Introduction item #5 (AB2026-104) is a substitute.

Scanlon stated that item numbers 1, 2, and 5 are related and were discussed in committee.

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

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

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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

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

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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

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

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

Councilmembers gave committee reports and updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on February 10, 2026.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE