

**Whatcom County
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

9:50 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 11:40 A.M.(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISION 6.22.2026

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Roll Call

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

Announcements

Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2026-345](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation for a radio tower lease, in the amount of \$0

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-449](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the Port of Bellingham to lower the loan principal amount to \$844,961.62, which reflects the actual amount dispersed and results in a total contract amount of \$2,899,813

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-462](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission for a wellness grant, in the amount of \$41,200

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-464](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Transportation for the renewal of youth zero fare policy, in the amount of \$260,250 for a total of \$363,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-466](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to move forward with the design phase of the Everson Goshen Road and East Smith Road Intersection Improvements project, in the amount of \$300,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-471](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cooperative agreement between Whatcom County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair the Bylsma Levee on the Nooksack River, in the amount of \$133,160 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-474](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cooperative agreement between Whatcom County and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to repair the Ritter Road levee along the left bank of the Nooksack River, in the amount of \$116,100 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2026-477](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide basic needs items to families with children ages 0-5 who qualify, in the amount of \$40,131 for a total amended contract amount of \$151,192

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2026-481](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pioneer Human Services to deliver substance use disorder assessments and provide post-assessment treatment coordination as a component of re-entry for individuals released from jail, in the amount of \$101,896

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-482](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority to decrease funding, due to state budget reductions, for the Alternative Response Team (ART) program grant, in the amount of \$176,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$4,385,000

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

11. [AB2026-483](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington Initiative for Supported Employment (WISE) to provide training and consultation to the County and local agencies related to improving employment outcomes and the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in their communities, in the amount of \$59,500

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

12. [AB2026-484](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and the union representing Lummi Island ferry operations workers in the Public Works Department covering 2026 to 2028

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

13. [AB2026-485](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for funding for employment and community inclusion services for adults with developmental disabilities, child development services for children ages birth to three years, and community information and training, in the amount of \$6,194,426

RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

Special Presentation

1. [AB2026-444](#) Presentation from the Port of Bellingham on economic development activities in

Whatcom County

PRESENTED

2. [AB2026-469](#) Report from the Superior Court Clerk's Office

REPORTED

3. [AB2026-487](#) Presentation by the Finance Division and Executive's Office on the 2027-2028 biennium budget process

WITHDRAWN

4. [AB2026-495](#) Update from Director Melissa Keeley on the Human Resources division

PRESENTED

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-459](#) Discussion of the procurement process for hearing examiner services

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved to nominate a Councilmember Elenbaas and Councilmember Boyle to serve on the hiring committee for the Hearing Examiner services.

2. [AB2026-479](#) Discussion of a draft resolution requiring additional public notice of proposed Whatcom County Council action to increase taxes

DISCUSSED

Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council

1. [AB2026-442](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the 2015 Girard Street Building Improvement Fund, request no. 1

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-450](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 9, in the amount of \$7,941,775

RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION

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

Nay: 0

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Adjournment