

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, May 26, 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 5.22.2026

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Council meetings are held in a hybrid format with in-person and remote participation available. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil.

If you require special assistance to participate, please contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance. Assistive listening devices are available in Council Chambers, and live captions are available through Zoom for those participating remotely.

Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

The County is accepting applications to fill vacancies on advisory groups for a range of local issues. For more information, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/1585 or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-043](#) Special Council for May 5, 2026
2. [MIN2026-044](#) Special Committee of the Whole for May 5, 2026
3. [MIN2026-045](#) Committee of Whole for May 12, 2026
4. [MIN2026-046](#) Regular County Council for May 12, 2026

OPEN SESSION

Council offers in-person and remote participation in Open Session. If you are attending the meeting in person, Open Session sign-up sheets will be available in Council Chambers. To participate remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register for a Zoom link by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting. Open Session is an opportunity to address Council on issues not scheduled for a public hearing. Speakers are given three minutes to speak and are asked to state their name for the record. Those participating on-site in Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who registered to speak remotely. Per RCW 42.17A.555, the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited.

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

Consent agenda items may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received background material on all items, and committee review has taken place 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. [AB2026-368](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and EKS Evaluation Consulting to develop a comprehensive evaluation plan for the five key Response Systems Division programs within Whatcom County Health and Community Services, in the amount of \$83,150
2. [AB2026-381](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Bellingham Police Department for a commitment of funding from the Bellingham Police Department to maintain operations of the Alternative Response Team Program, in the amount of \$688,760
3. [AB2026-382](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Commerce to increase funding for the Consolidated Homeless Grant, which supports the priorities outlined in the Whatcom County Plan to End Homelessness, in the amount of \$1,546,981 for a total amended agreement amount of \$20,366,072
4. [AB2026-385](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to provide funding for various public health programs, in the amount of \$57,008 for a total amended contract amount of \$11,286,805

5. [AB2026-386](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Kulshan Community Land Trust to provide eighteen units of permanently affordable homeownership units for households earning less than 80% Area Median Income, in the amount of \$394,012.06
6. [AB2026-387](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Shea, Carr & Jewell, Inc. dba SCJ Alliance to provide flood mitigation planning for the City of Sumas, in the amount of \$274,981.33 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-391](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for the elevation of sixteen structures in flood-prone areas, in the amount of \$4,156,725 (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
8. [AB2026-392](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Herrera Environmental Consultants to support the next phase of Lower Nooksack River Floodplain Integrated Planning, in the amount of \$1,250,229 for a total contract amount of \$4,248,598 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
9. [AB2026-393](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center to support the development of 37 units of affordable rentals for adults with behavioral health needs, including 11 units dedicated to Trueblood Class Members, in the amount of \$3,087,940
10. [AB2026-394](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an amended agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement of costs related to water adjudication, in the amended amount of \$2,538,200
11. [AB2026-397](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to enhance security and preparedness for the 2026 International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup events, in the amount of \$62,963
12. [AB2026-398](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the SeattleFWC26 to enhance security and preparedness for the 2026 International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup events, in the amount of \$97,556

13. [AB2026-401](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to clarify eligible construction reimbursement methods for the Bear Creek Corridor Mitigation Bank Project in the amount of \$0, for a total amended contract amount of \$1,000,000

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2026-333](#) Ordinance increasing the Petty Cash Revolving Fund for the Parks and Recreation Department, in the amount of \$500
2. [AB2026-351](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Austin Court Stormwater Improvement Project Fund, request no. 1
3. [AB2026-353](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the North Commercial Street Acquisition, request no. 1
4. [AB2026-355](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 11
5. [AB2026-369](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 8, in the amount of \$8,914,924
6. [AB2026-373](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$34,964 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-374](#) Ordinance amending the project based budget for the Lummi Nation Ferry Lease Fund-3901, request no. 1
8. [AB2026-379](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Central Shop National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Improvements Project Fund, request no. 2
9. [AB2026-402](#) Resolution appointing the County Treasurer and Finance Director as the county representatives authorized to designate certain expenditures for reimbursement from future tax-exempt obligations

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

10. [AB2026-389](#) Resolution establishing the existing Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee as the Ferry Advisory Committee for the Ferry District [Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors]

(From Council Committee of the Whole)

11. [AB2026-390](#) Resolution regarding greenhouse gas reduction sub-element voluntary review as part of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan periodic update under the Washington State Growth Management Act (RCW 36.70A.096)

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2026-418](#) Request for motion to support modifying the Flood District Fund reserve policy to allow for levee repairs

ITEM ADDED 5.22.2026

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN