

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024  
6 PM  
Hybrid Meeting**

**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**

Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway  
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 receive a join link. 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. [MIN2024-037](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 9, 2024
2. [MIN2024-042](#) Committee of the Whole for July 9, 2024
3. [MIN2024-043](#) Regular County Council for July 9, 2024
4. [MIN2024-044](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 23, 2024
5. [MIN2024-045](#) Committee of the Whole for July 23, 2024
6. [MIN2024-046](#) Regular County Council for July 23, 2024
7. [MIN2024-047](#) Water Work Session for February 13, 2024

## **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.

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 MPP2024-00001 City of Bellingham Mitigation Bank, LSS2024-00001 R and R Acres Long Subdivision and Development Agreement, LSS2022-00001 Red Mountain Long Subdivision and Development Agreement, and PUD2022-00001 Royal Emerald Motors Planned Unit Development.

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## **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. [AB2024-491](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Administrative Office of the Courts to support District Court Mental Health Court in the amount of \$178,600
2. [AB2024-495](#) Request authorization to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County Juvenile Court and Washington Health Care Authority for development and implementation of reentry services for youth transitioning out of Juvenile Detention- up to \$2,000,000
3. [AB2024-496](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Western Washington University to purchase and install a portable building intended to be used for two licensed childcare classrooms, in the amount of \$529,800

4. [AB2024-497](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office to acquire approximately 1,600 acres of forestland to be added to the existing Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$3,000,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
5. [AB2024-498](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Bellingham Food Bank to purchase and distribute diapers and infant formula, in the amount of \$867,688
6. [AB2024-499](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington State Office of Public Defense to be reimbursed for the cost of providing defense counsel consultation and representation for defendants facing charges or charged with simple possession or public use offenses under RCW 69.50.4011(1)(b) or (c) in the amount of \$183,635.00
7. [AB2024-500](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale School District to provide emergency management services to Ferndale School District in the amount of \$40,000
8. [AB2024-501](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and SoundEarth Strategies LLC to provide remedial investigation/feasibility study and construction and permitting support services for the removal of existing underground storage tanks and site remediation at the Whatcom County Central Shop facility, in the amount of \$19,762 for a total amended contract amount of \$158,499
9. [AB2024-502](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a no-cost interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to allow the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS) volunteer organization to provide communications services to the fire stations for emergency communications in the event of a disaster
10. [AB2024-504](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Crossroads Consulting LLC for facilitator services for the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force in the amount of \$169,650.00
11. [AB2024-506](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award Bid #24-74 for the purchase of two Skydio X10 drones, accessories, software, and training from Axon Enterprise Inc, located in Scottsdale, Arizona, in an amount not to exceed \$57,484.20

12. [AB2024-508](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Opportunity Council for pass through funding to provide services to low and moderate income persons in Whatcom, Island, and San Juan Counties in the amount of \$130,000
13. [AB2024-509](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for pass through funding to support the What-Comm Communications Center E911 operational expenses in the amount of \$52,900
14. [AB2024-511](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Mount Baker School District to provide funding for minor renovations necessary to construct a school-based health center, in the amount of \$30,000
15. [AB2024-514](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Commerce for funding to help support positions in the Sheriff's Office that are assigned to the Whatcom Gang and Drug Task Force, in the amount of \$150,000

## **OTHER ITEMS**

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

1. [AB2024-513](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an access agreement between Blaine School District and Whatcom County for Bay Horizon Park
2. [AB2024-523](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham Fire Department, City of Lynden Fire Department, Whatcom Fire Protection District 1, Whatcom Fire Protection District 4, Whatcom County Fire Protection District 7, Whatcom Fire Protection District 8, Whatcom Fire Protection District 11, Whatcom Fire Protection District 14, Whatcom Fire Protection District 16, Whatcom Fire Protection District 17, Whatcom Fire Protection District 18, Whatcom Fire Protection District 19, Whatcom Fire Protection District 21 (dba North Whatcom Fire and Rescue), South Whatcom Fire Authority for First Response Medical Services, in the amount of \$25 million

## **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

1. [AB2024-472](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Forest Resilience Task Force for a community member with expertise in climate, salmon recovery, and natural resources policy, Applicant(s): Emily Thompson, Brandy Reed, Gregory Houle, Thomas Smith, Ryan Hasert, Holly O'Neil

**CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS,  
COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

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. [AB2024-505](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Summer Starr to the Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

**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. [AB2024-494](#) Resolution defining transportation improvements in accordance with newly amended state law (Council acting as the Governing Body of the Point Roberts Transportation Benefit District)
2. [AB2024-517](#) Ordinance establishing the North Commercial Street Acquisition Project Fund
3. [AB2024-521](#) Ordinance amending the 2024 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of 2,059,971

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