

# Whatcom County Council

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



## Action Summary

**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

**Present:** 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

## FLAG SALUTE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

## MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2024-037](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 9, 2024

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

2. [MIN2024-042](#) Committee of the Whole for July 9, 2024

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

3. [MIN2024-043](#) Regular County Council for July 9, 2024

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

4. [MIN2024-044](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 23, 2024

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

5. [MIN2024-045](#) Committee of the Whole for July 23, 2024

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

6. [MIN2024-046](#) Regular County Council for July 23, 2024

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

7. [MIN2024-047](#) Water Work Session for February 13, 2024

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**OPEN SESSION**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**(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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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)

This item was considered separately below.

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

This item was considered separately below.

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY**

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)

**AUTHORIZED**

**Aye:** 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler

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

**AUTHORIZED**

**Aye:** 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler

**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

**AUTHORIZED**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

Motion carried 7-0 to approve with the understanding that the Executive's side and the chiefs will be working with a goal of July 1st (of 2025) to re-examine the dispatch fee General Fund issue.

**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

**APPOINTED**

Appointed Brandy Reed with 6 votes

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

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

**CONFIRMED**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

**Nay:** 0

**ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

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)

**INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2024-517](#) Ordinance establishing the North Commercial Street Acquisition Project Fund

**INTRODUCED**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2024-521](#) Ordinance amending the 2024 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of 2,059,971

**INTRODUCED**

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

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

From Public Works and Health Committee:

Motion approved 7-0 to hold AB2024-314 until staff can update the ordinance.

From Committee of the Whole:

Motion approved 7-0 to authorize the employment law investigation committee to provide a summary report that identifies their opinion of root cause and recommended paths forward including developing a scope of work that defines an RFP (request for proposal) to bring in outside expertise in identified areas.

From Committee of the Whole:

Motion approved 7-0 that the Council direct the Executive's Office to proceed with what is spelled out in the memo for AB2024-522.

**ADJOURN**