

Whatcom County Council (Special)

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

Monday, December 1, 2025

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)

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

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

Announcements**Discussion and Action**

1. [AB2025-781](#) Resolution certifying amounts to be levied by Whatcom County taxing districts to the County Assessor

Rebecca Xczar, County Assessor, thanked the Council for meeting on December 1 to meet the RCW requirement. She stated that two cemetery districts did not submit levy information, so their levy amounts are zero. She said that in the past, Council has recertified amounts. However, a review of Department of Revenue requirements indicates that recertification at a higher amount than originally certified may not be a legal levy. She added that one of the cemetery districts communicated that they will submit an amount but not by the deadline. She said the other district did not respond to communication.

Galloway asked if Council staff could speak to correspondence received by the cemetery districts.

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, stated that it is her understanding the county legislative authority is required to certify these levy amounts to the assessor by December 1, and the subsequent consequences to taxing districts that did not comply with the deadline requirements would be, in her opinion, between the assessor and their attorney.

Elenbaas stated that it looks to be Cemetery District 5 and Cemetery District 7 that did not report. He said his opinion would be that those cemetery districts all have elected commissioners that need to fulfill their duties, and if they do not meet a deadline, they should be held accountable by voters. He asked for more information about the districts that did not meet the deadline.

Lisa Bruner, Council Office staff, stated that she reached out to Cemetery District 7, and they responded that they are meeting on December 8, so they will have their amounts after that meeting.

Halka clarified that Cemetery District 7 is Enterprise Cemetery.

Elenbaas stated that he has been communicating with them about the need to have a published budget.

Donovan stated that Council should just move forward.

Donovan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Resolution be APPROVED.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-041

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Jenna Gernand