

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 10, 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)**

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. [MIN2026-018](#) Special Council - Councilmember Retreat for February 17, 2026
2. [MIN2026-019](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for February 24, 2026
3. [MIN2026-020](#) Committee of the Whole for February 24, 2026
4. [MIN2026-021](#) Special Committee of the Whole for February 3, 2026
5. [MIN2026-022](#) Regular County Council for February 24, 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.

1. [AB2026-174](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award Bid #26-01 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lake Union Drydock Company for drydocking, repair, and maintenance of the Whatcom Chief Ferry in the amount of \$891,918
2. [AB2026-190](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and WSP USA, Inc to perform engineering and design services for the Everson-Nooksack Berms Project, in the amount of \$752,159.46 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
3. [AB2026-192](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to provide funding for various public health services in the amount of \$101,475, for a total amended agreement amount of \$11,229,797
4. [AB2026-199](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Public Utility District No. 1 of Whatcom County to outline the terms and conditions related to the operation and maintenance of water systems by the Public Utility District at the request of and as an agent for Whatcom County

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

1. [AB2026-195](#) Resolution docketing Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation amendments

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-172](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Planning Commission, District 1 or 5, Applicants: Lindsey Elenbaas, Gurdeep Bains, Selena Knoblauch, Jeremy Thompson, Joseph L. Stein, Steven Cohen
2. [AB2026-173](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Child and Family Well-Being Task Force, Applicant(s): Makela Alem

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

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. [AB2026-179](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Steven Price to the Whatcom County Housing Authority Board
2. [AB2026-202](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of JoEll Snyder to the Whatcom County Conservation Easement Program Oversight 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. [AB2026-178](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee, Behavioral Health Provider position, Applicant(s): Keren Gott, Margery Dunkle (Deadline for additional applications is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2026)
2. [AB2026-181](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Eagleridge Stormwater Improvements Project Fund, request no. 1
3. [AB2026-183](#) Ordinance amending the project based budget for the Swift Creek Capital Projects Fund, request no. 3
4. [AB2026-193](#) Receipt of the 2025 Whatcom County Contractor Apprenticeship Program Annual Report
5. [AB2026-200](#) Ordinance closing the Bellingham Senior Center HVAC Replacement Fund

6. [AB2026-204](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 5, in the amount of \$741,113
7. [AB2026-206](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 6, in the amount of \$3,920,278
8. [AB2026-213](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN