

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

**6 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**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**

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](http://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](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1585) or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

### MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-039](#) Special Committee of the Whole for April 7, 2026
2. [MIN2026-040](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for April 28, 2026
3. [MIN2026-041](#) Committee of the Whole for April 28, 2026
4. [MIN2026-042](#) Regular County Council for April 28, 2026

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

Council offers in-person and remote participation in Public Hearings. If you are attending the meeting in person, Public Hearing sign-up sheets will be available in Council Chambers. To participate remotely, please visit [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil) and register for a Zoom link by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting. Speakers are given three minutes to address the Council 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.

1. [AB2026-282](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property, a single-family house, as surplus and approve sale (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

2. [AB2026-284](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property as surplus and approve sale (Council acting as Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
3. [AB2026-286](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property as surplus and to approve sale (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
4. [AB2026-339](#) Ordinance establishing a Ferry District to fund and manage the Lummi Island ferry system

### **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](http://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. [AB2026-347](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Cascadia Law Group PLLC to increase the maximum consideration in the amount of \$50,000, for a total amended contract amount of \$200,000
2. [AB2026-348](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Ceterra Northwest, LLC to provide on-call construction materials testing and materials inspection for Whatcom County Public Works projects in the amount not to exceed \$200,000

3. [AB2026-349](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Sustainable Connections to conduct an innovative waste reduction program for large scale events, in the amount of \$83,588

### **OTHER ITEMS**

#### **(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)**

1. [AB2026-340](#) Resolution establishing a preliminary planning budget cap, affirming governing commitments, and providing recommendations to the administration from the Whatcom County Council on the capital construction of the Whatcom County Jail and Behavioral Care Center

#### **(From Council Committee of the Whole)**

2. [AB2026-272](#) Request for motion regarding council meeting procedures for discussion of agenda bill items on the day of introduction

### **COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-325](#) Appointment to vacancies on the Lynden/Everson Flood Subzone Advisory Committee, Applicants: Ladd Shumway, Jackie Abercrombie, Luke Wolfisberg (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

### **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. [AB2026-350](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Neal Walker to the Food System 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. [AB2026-333](#) Ordinance increasing the Petty Cash Revolving Fund for the Parks & 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

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

### **ADJOURN**