

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

1 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.M. (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

Call To Order

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2026-037](#) Update on 2026 State Legislative Session

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

MOTION 1

Motion approved that they add HB 2442 and its Senate companion SB 6294 to their legislative agenda.

MOTION 2

Motion approved to support HB 2520 regarding emergency meetings.

MOTION 3

Motion approved that Galloway represent Whatcom County as "other" so that they have the opportunity to learn more about this legislation (House Bill 2170 and companion Senate Bill 5999) and potentially help shape it.

2. [AB2026-078](#) Discussion of urban growth area proposals for the 2025 Comprehensive Plan

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

MOTION 1

Motion approved to (preliminarily) support a proposal from the City of Nooksack that includes areas 3 and 4.

MOTION 2

Motion approved to (preliminarily) support the updated proposal from the City of Blaine.

3. [AB2026-079](#) Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Chapter 4, Capital Facilities, and Chapter 5, Utilities

NOT ACTED UPON

4. [AB2026-023](#) Discussion of a draft ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 5.40 Outdoor Musical Entertainment, Amusements and Assemblies

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved to introduce the ordinance this evening.

5. [AB2026-045](#) Discussion regarding the implementation of the 2025 charter amendments passed by voters

DISCUSSED

6. [AB2026-040](#) Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits

DISCUSSED

Items Added by Revision

Other Business

Motion approved that Councilmembers Galloway and Scanlon move forward with a proposal for up to \$9,999 to facilitate a strategic plan for the County Council.

Adjournment