

# **Whatcom County Council Special Committee of the Whole**

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



## **Committee Minutes - Draft Minutes**

**Tuesday, January 14, 2025**

**8:45 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 9:45 A.M. (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

## Call To Order

Council member Barry Buchanan called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.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

### Special Order of Business

1. [AB2025-003](#) Reorganization of the Whatcom County Council for 2025

Council Chairperson (Acts as Chair of Council acting in other capacities, Rep to EDI Board, Law Library Board, SWISS Exec. Committee, County Finance Committee)

*Buchanan moved* and Scanlon seconded to nominate Galloway.

Elenbaas moved and Stremler seconded to nominate Scanlon, but Scanlon declined the nomination.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 6 - Byrd, Donovan, Galloway, Scanlon, Stremler, and Buchanan

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

Kaylee Galloway chaired the meeting from this point forward.

Council Vice-Chairperson

*Galloway moved* and Donovan seconded to nominate Scanlon.

Byrd stated he would also like to be nominated.

*Galloway moved* and Donovan seconded to nominate Byrd.

Scanlon was appointed with six votes as follows:

**Scanlon:** 6 - Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, Stremler, and Buchanan

**Byrd:** 1 - Byrd

Executive Pro-Tempore (Cannot be on COG)

***Galloway moved*** and Buchanan seconded to nominate Donovan.

Byrd stated he would also like to be nominated.

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to nominate Byrd.

Donovan was appointed with five votes as follows:

**Donovan:** 5 - Galloway, Scanlon, Stremmer, Buchanan, and Donovan

**Byrd:** 2 - Elenbaas and Byrd

### *Standing Committees*

#### Criminal Justice and Public Safety

***Galloway moved*** and Buchanan seconded to nominate Buchanan, Byrd, and Scanlon.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:**0

Finance & Administrative Services - Chair of Finance Committee will automatically act as Council Rep. to What-Comm Administrative Board

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to nominate Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, and Scanlon.

Scanlon stated he would step out of the nomination.

Buchanan, Byrd, and Donovan were appointed by the following vote:

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

**Nay:**0

#### Planning & Development

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to nominate Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, and Scanlon.

Donovan, Elenbaas, and Scanlon were appointed by the following vote:

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

**Donovan:** 6 - Stremler, Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon

**Scanlon:** 5 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon

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

Public Works and Health

**Galloway moved** and Donovan seconded to nominate Elenbaas, Scanlon, and Stremler.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:**0

Climate Action and Natural Resources

Buchanan withdrew his name from consideration.

**Galloway moved** and Donovan seconded to nominate Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Stremler.

Donovan, Galloway, and Stremler were appointed by the following vote:

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

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

**Galloway:** 5 - Donovan, Galloway, Scanlon, Stremler, and Buchanan

**Elenbaas:** 2 - Elenbaas and Byrd

Select 2 Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee members as Representatives to Lake Whatcom Policy Group

**Galloway moved** and Buchanan seconded to nominate Donovan and Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Other Committee Assignments

Behavioral Health Advisory Committee

**Donovan moved** and Galloway seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Bellingham International Airport Advisory

**Buchanan moved** and Donovan seconded to appoint Stremler.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Bellingham Regional Chamber of Commerce

**Donovan moved** and Galloway seconded to appoint Stremler.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Business and Commerce Advisory Committee (non-voting)

**Donovan moved** and Buchanan seconded to appoint Stremler.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Stremler, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon  
**Nay:** 0

Child and Family Well-Being Task Force

***Buchanan moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Scanlon.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0

Climate Impact Advisory Committee Appoint ONE-Non-Voting (\*\*3-year term) AB2022-021

Galloway stated the Climate Impact Advisory Committee has one appointed non-voting councilmember and per the code, it is a three-year term, so they do not need to appoint anyone for this year. Galloway will continue as the appointee.

Council of Governments (COG) Appoint TWO members to serve on the Full Council (cannot be Exec Pro-Tem)

***Galloway moved*** and Byrd seconded to appoint Galloway and Scanlon.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, Stremler, and Buchanan  
**Nay:** 0

Council of Governments (COG) Appoint ONE of the above two members to also serve on Transportation Policy Board (cannot be Exec Pro-Tem)

***Galloway moved*** and Scanlon seconded to appoint Scanlon with Galloway as the alternate.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Byrd  
Nay: 0

Developmental Disabilities Board

***Buchanan moved*** and Galloway seconded to appoint Donovan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, Stremmer, Buchanan, Byrd, and Donovan  
**Nay:** 0

Drayton Harbor & Portage Bay Shellfish Protection Districts

Elenbaas nominated himself.

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Elenbaas.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Galloway, Scanlon, Stremmer, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, and Elenbaas  
**Nay:** 0

EMS Oversight Board Representative

Buchanan withdrew his name from consideration.

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to nominate Donovan and Elenbaas.

Mike Hilley, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Manager, spoke about the meeting schedule.

***Donovan withdrew*** his name from consideration.

Byrd and Galloway nominated themselves.

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to nominate Byrd, Elenbaas, and Galloway and vote for one.

Elenbaas was appointed by the following vote:

**Elenbaas:** 6 - Scanlon, Stremler, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, and Elenbaas

**Galloway:** 1 - Galloway

**Byrd:** 0

EMS Oversight Board Alternate Representative

*Scanlon moved* and Donovan seconded to nominate Galloway.

*Stremler moved* and Donovan seconded to nominate Byrd.

Galloway was appointed by the following vote:

**Galloway:** 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon

**Byrd:** 1 - Stremler

Flood Control Zone Committee (Ex Officio)

*Buchanan moved* and Donovan seconded to appoint Elenbaas.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force (And Appoint one alternate)

Buchanan nominated himself to be the primary member.

Elenbaas nominated himself to be the alternate.

*Galloway moved* and Donovan seconded to appoint Buchanan as the representative and Elenbaas as the alternate.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0



Intergovernmental Tribal Relations Committee (Appt. TWO)

***Donovan moved*** and Buchanan seconded to appoint Elenbaas and Scanlon.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee (JPOP)

***Galloway moved*** and Scanlon seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Justice Project Finance and Facility Advisory Board

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

LEOFF Board

***Donovan moved*** and Galloway seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

Stremmer withdrew his name from consideration.

***Galloway moved*** and Stremler seconded to appoint Elenbaas.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee - Appoint ONE non-voting attendee

Elenbaas withdrew his name from consideration.

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Scanlon.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

OPTIONAL: Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee Alt. - Appoint TWO alternates if Council wishes

***Donovan moved*** and Galloway seconded to appoint Elenbaas.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Marine Resources Committee

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) (AB2023-194)

***Donovan moved*** and Galloway seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

North Sound Behavioral Health Exec. Committee

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Northwest Clean Air Agency

Elenbaas stated he would like be on the committee.

***Buchanan moved*** and Galloway seconded to nominate Donovan and Elenbaas.

Donovan was appointed by the following vote:

**Donovan:** 6 - Scanlon, Stremler, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, and Galloway

**Elenbaas:** 1 - Elenbaas

Northwest Regional Council (NWRC)

***Galloway moved*** and Buchanan seconded to appoint Stremler.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Opportunity Council

Galloway stated her current term is up in January of 2025.

***Scanlon moved*** and Galloway seconded to appoint Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Public Defense Advisory

***Galloway moved*** and Scanlon seconded to appoint Elenbaas.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Public Health Advisory Board

***Buchanan moved*** and Stremler seconded to appoint Scanlon.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Racial Equity Commission Appoint ONE-Non-Voting (\*\* 2 year term)  
AB2022-590

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Galloway and Stremler with a vote of one.

Galloway was appointed by the following vote:

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

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

Solid Waste Advisory

***Scanlon moved*** and Buchanan seconded to appoint Stremler.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

SWISS Alternate Committee Member. Council Chair serves on Exec. Committee

Galloway withdrew her name from consideration.

***Galloway moved*** and Scanlon seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Alternate Board Member (The Executive is the active representative, Councilmember is alternate)

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Optional Alternate Board Member (Res2019-008)

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Scanlon.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Legislative Steering Committee

***Galloway moved*** and Scanlon seconded to appoint Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Legislative Steering Committee ALTERNATE

***Buchanan moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Buchanan as the alternate.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Timber Counties Caucus - Optional

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Timber Counties Caucus - ALTERNATE

Stremmer stated he would nominate himself.

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Stremmer.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Coastal Counties Caucus - Optional

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

WSAC Coastal Counties Caucus - ALTERNATE

Buchanan stated he would nominate himself.

***Buchanan moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Buchanan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Whatcom Transportation Authority

***Buchanan moved*** and Scanlon seconded to appoint Donovan.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

Whatcom County Tourism Board (AB2023-194)

***Galloway moved*** and Donovan seconded to appoint Galloway.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

**This agenda item was APPOINTED.**

**Items Added by Revision**

There were no agenda items added by revision.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger