

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, October 21, 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 Stremmer

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Council is currently holding meetings in hybrid format with options for in-person or remote viewing and participation. For instructions on remote participation, visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to speak remotely. Individuals who require special assistance to participate in the Council's meetings are asked to contact the Council Office at 360.778-5010 at least 96 hours in advance.

Per RCW 42.17A.555 the use of public facilities to support or oppose candidates or ballot issues is prohibited. Members of the public and the legislative body are not allowed to speak in support of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or individual candidacy during an open public meeting. Please refrain from raising campaign issues when addressing the Council.

The County is accepting applications from county residents to fill vacancies on several boards, commissions, and committees spanning a wide range of important local issues. For more information, visit the Boards and Commissions vacancy webpage on the County website or call the Council Office or County Executive's Office.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2025-064](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for October 7, 2025
2. [MIN2025-066](#) Committee of the Whole for October 7, 2025
3. [MIN2025-067](#) Regular County Council for October 7, 2025

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Participants requesting to speak during public hearings may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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1. [AB2025-637](#) Ordinance amending the Countywide Planning Policies, which reside in Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendix C
2. [AB2025-672](#) Resolution approving the Public Works Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the years 2026-2031
3. [AB2025-673](#) Resolution adopting the 2026 Annual Road Program

OPEN SESSION

Participants requesting to speak during open session may attend in person. To speak remotely, please visit www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil and register by 4 p.m. the day of the meeting to receive a join link.

During open session, audience members may speak to the council on issues not scheduled for public hearing. All speakers are asked to state their name for the record and optionally include city of residence. When a large group of individuals supports the same position on an issue, we encourage the selection of one or two representatives to speak on behalf of the entire group. Speakers will be given three minutes to address the Council and will be notified when their three minutes are up. Speakers participating on-site in the Council Chambers will speak first, followed by those who have registered to speak remotely.

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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

Items under this section of the agenda may be considered in a single motion. Councilmembers have received and studied background material on all items. Committee review has taken place on these items, 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. [AB2025-727](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to reimburse the 5% match obligation required in the two elevation grants, in the amount of \$600,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

2. [AB2025-728](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer the Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Program in the amount of \$1,813,929, for a total amended contract amount of \$5,223,812
3. [AB2025-730](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a three-year contract between Whatcom County and Correctional Healthcare Partners Inc. for the provision of jail healthcare and juvenile detention nursing services, in the three-year total amount of \$22,656,000

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-678](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 9
2. [AB2025-680](#) Resolution amending the 2025 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$49,400 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
3. [AB2025-682](#) Ordinance establishing the Silver Lake Lagoon Project Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge Fund
4. [AB2025-685](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$517,671

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. [AB2025-705](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Michael Byers to the Whatcom County Agricultural Advisory Committee
2. [AB2025-729](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Matt Hargleroad to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission
3. [AB2025-731](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of J G Sandy Phillips to the Whatcom County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory 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. [AB2025-676](#) Resolution adopting the 2026-2031 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program (WRIP) (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
2. [AB2025-707](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 1 (amount to be added before meeting)
3. [AB2025-709](#) Resolution authorizing the levy of taxes for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District for 2026 (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
4. [AB2025-711](#) Resolution adopting 2026 budget for the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District and Subzones (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
5. [AB2025-713](#) Resolution declaring the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District's intention to lease property on River Road (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
6. [AB2025-715](#) Resolution declaring the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District's intention to lease property on East Main Street (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2025-719](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for Conservation Futures purposes for 2026
8. [AB2025-721](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County Road purposes for 2026
9. [AB2025-723](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for countywide emergency medical purposes for 2026
10. [AB2025-725](#) Ordinance authorizing the levy of taxes for County and State purposes in Whatcom County, Washington, for the year of 2026
11. [AB2025-732](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning Committee, EMS Paramedic Position, Applicant(s): Jonathan Oliveira (Deadline for additional applications to this position is 10:00 am. Tuesday, October 28, 2025)

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN