

Whatcom County Council

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



Minutes - Final

Tuesday, March 25, 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 Stremmler**

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

There was no report.

MINUTES CONSENT

Byrd moved to accept the minutes consent items. The motion was seconded by Scanlon (see votes on individual items below).

1. MIN2025-015 Committee of the Whole Executive Session for March 11, 2025

Byrd moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. MIN2025-016 Committee of the Whole for March 11, 2025

Byrd moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. MIN2025-017 Regular County Council for March 11, 2025

Byrd moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

OPEN SESSION

The following people spoke:

- Adam Bellinger
- Ryan Bowman
- Kyle Christensen
- Lara Danskin
- Graham Meeks
- Melinda Montanye
- Jose Reta
- Paula Glackin
- Michael Williams
- Aaron Eason
- Ryan Whaley
- Jenny Bowefield
- Chari Lioi
- Kilmeny Miller
- Ann Lund
- Daniel Harm
- Tom Kunesch
- Elizabeth Boyle
- Kristen Ingman
- Amy McKinley
- Joy Nelson
- Elke Stevens
- Kara Burt
- Anne Carmichael
- Michelle Ostendorff
- Lyle Sorenson
- Ken Bachenberg
- Jim Boyle
- Kristy Knopp
- Tevon Lautenbach
- McKenna Lautenbach
- Sean Touhey
- Patrick Alesse
- Ryan Cunningham
- Natalie Chavez
- Markis Dee
- Misty Flowers

- Dwayne Engelsman
- Hannah Ordos

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Open Session.

Councilmembers took a short break.

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** to approve Consent Agenda items one through 21.

Elenbaas requested to consider Consent Agenda item numbers 1 (**AB2025-208**) and 19 (**AB2025-266**) separately.

Stremmler requested to consider Consent Agenda item number 9 (**AB2025-247**) separately.

Councilmembers voted on item numbers 2-8, 10-18, and 20-21 (see votes on individual items below).

1. AB2025-208 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Puget Sound Partnership to implement a program that supports the health and sustainability of onsite septic systems in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$182,310

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

2. AB2025-223 Request authorization for the County Executive to grant a perpetual easement to Donald and Heather Hall across park property for ingress/egress purposes to a private residence adjacent to Lake Whatcom Park

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. AB2025-230 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and National Services Office for Nurse-Family Partnership for technical support and training in an estimated amount of \$36,650

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee

and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

4. AB2025-236 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Local Agency A&E Agreement between Whatcom County and KPFF, Inc. to provide on-call professional structural engineering support for the Whatcom County bridge program in 2025, in the amount of \$40,000

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

5. AB2025-237 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Local Agency A&E Agreement between Whatcom County and KPFF Inc., to provide on-call professional mechanical engineering support for the Whatcom County ferry program in 2025, in the amount of \$40,000

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

6. AB2025-238 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Local Agency A&E Agreement between Whatcom County and Sargent Engineers, Inc. to provide on-call professional structural engineering support for the Whatcom County bridge program in 2025, in the amount of \$40,000

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

7. AB2025-241 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide additional funding and time to complete technical analyses assessing topographic changes in the Nooksack River channel and support Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) work, in the amount of \$40,000 (Council acting as the

Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

8. AB2025-244 Request authorization for the County Executive to award Bid #25-09 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lake Union Drydock Company for the annual Dockside Repair and Maintenance of the Whatcom Chief Ferry, in the amount of \$601,352

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Bid Award be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

9. AB2025-247 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Community Attributes Inc (CAI) for the Birch Bay Incorporation Study, in the amount of \$150,000

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

10. AB2025-249 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and J.A. Brennan Associates PLLC for engineering and design services to develop a Vision Plan for Hovander Park, in the amount of \$265,000

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

11. AB2025-252 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Association of Counties to conduct audits for tier 1 and tier 2 buildings in the amount of a \$449,882.29 grant

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

12. AB2025-253 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Insight Public Sector, using the State of WA contract, to provide Neogov Learn software and Position and Employee Integrations in the amount of \$126,288.80 through December 31, 2026

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

13. AB2025-254 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pacific Power Generation to provide 2025 Generator Preventative Maintenance Service, in the amount of \$57,571.54

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

14. AB2025-256 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Handel Information Technologies, Inc. (Handel) for the purchase and implementation of case management software to support the Water Adjudication proceeding in the amount of \$54,835.12

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

15. AB2025-257 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) for audio-visual recording system equipment for the new third floor Superior Court courtroom in the amount of \$97,438.09

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

16. AB2025-259 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and WA State Department of Military for Operation Stonegarden FY2023, in the amount of \$214,500

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

17. AB2025-260 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Military, in the amount of \$160,875

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

18. AB2025-261 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center for services relating to Supervised Visitation- \$111,000

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

19. AB2025-266 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association to expand local childcare capacity and increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$48,947

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

20. AB2025-267 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lummi Indian Business Council to increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$282,889

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion

carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

21. AB2025-269 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Center for Early Learning to increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$225,525

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

1. AB2025-208 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Puget Sound Partnership to implement a program that supports the health and sustainability of onsite septic systems in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$182,310

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Elenbaas

9. AB2025-247 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Community Attributes Inc (CAI) for the Birch Bay Incorporation Study, in the amount of \$150,000

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Contract be AUTHORIZED.

Councilmembers discussed a concern about Birch Bay not contributing to the funding for the study and the motion, and the following person also spoke:

- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive

Buchanan's motion that the Contract be AUTHORIZED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Elenbaas, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Stremmler

Abstain: 1 - Galloway

19. AB2025-266 Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association to expand local childcare capacity and increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$48,947

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Contract be AUTHORIZED.

Councilmembers discussed whether Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association does childcare and how long they have done it, and a concern that they do not have a track record for performance in this venue, and they discussed the motion.

The following staff answered questions about the program and whether it will support working families and fill the void we have in childcare slots, and referred Councilmembers to the ordinance that identifies the eligible expenses for the Healthy Children's Fund:

- Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office
- Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Donovan moved to call the question. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Buchanan's motion that the Contract be AUTHORIZED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. AB2025-196 Ordinance temporarily amending the funding limit of cash flow loans from the Road Fund to North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107 Replacement Fund -3905 from \$2,000,000 up to \$6,656,262.32 for a term not to exceed two years

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Ordinance be ADOPTED.

Galloway stated she is conflicted on this item.

Buchanan's motion that the Ordinance be ADOPTED carried by the following

vote:

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

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Galloway

Enactment No: ORD 2025-014

2. AB2025-211 Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center Sports Court

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Ordinance be ADOPTED.

Councilmembers discussed that this is a grant, but for now, this is a temporary loan from the Economic Development Investment (EDI) fund. The money will be reimbursed and paid back by the grant when they receive it.

Buchanan's motion that the Ordinance be ADOPTED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-015

3. AB2025-212 Ordinance authorizing an interfund loan for the construction of the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center Sports Court

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Ordinance be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-016

4. AB2025-213 Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the Silver Lake Boat Launch at Silver Lake Park

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Ordinance be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-017

5. AB2025-220 Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$1,485,889

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Ordinance be ADOPTED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-018

6. AB2025-240 Resolution updating the appendix of the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Buchanan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Resolution be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-012

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

7. AB2025-194 Resolution docketing Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation amendments

Elenbaas reported for the Planning and Development Committee and moved that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be APPROVED.

Councilmembers discussed the motion and the docketing process.

Elenbaas's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be APPROVED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Donovan

Enactment No: RES 2025-013

(From Council Committee of the Whole)

8. AB2025-221 Discussion and motion relating to draft Countywide Planning Policy amendments

Galloway reported for the Committee of the Whole and moved that the Request for Motion be HELD IN COMMITTEE. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Held in Committee till the April 15 meeting

9. AB2025-273 Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Charlene Ramont as Interim Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services effective March 25, 2025

Galloway moved that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED.

Scanlon moved to amend the motion to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Charlene Ramont as Interim Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services and as Administrative Director as defined in Whatcom County Code 24.01 effective March 25, 2025.

The motion was seconded by Galloway.

Councilmembers discussed the motion to amend, and whether State law requires that the Council confirm the administrative position.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Councilmembers discussed the main motion as amended.

Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered whether the law references the Council having to confirm when someone leaves a position, and stated the administrative director serves at the will of the executive, and if they want to dismiss that individual from that position, they can do so without Council action.

Galloway's motion that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED as amended carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Charlene Ramont as Interim Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services and as Administrative Director as defined in Whatcom County Code 24.01 effective March 25, 2025

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. AB2025-218 Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Agriculture representative, Applicant(s): Rich Appel
Scanlon moved and Byrd seconded that the Council Appointment Requiring Introduction be APPOINTED.

Councilmembers discussed the applicant and appointing someone who already serves on another committee.

Scanlon's motion that the Council Appointment Requiring Introduction be APPOINTED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. AB2025-227 Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Payden Waldo to the Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Byrd moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED.

Councilmembers discussed the applicant, and having more representation from districts three, four, and five.

Byrd's motion that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. AB2025-270 Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Jerry Marczynski to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission
Byrd moved and Scanlon seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED.

Elenbaas spoke about the applicant.

Byrd's motion that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

There were no agenda items added by revision.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Buchanan moved to introduce items one through six. The motion was seconded by Byrd.

Councilmembers discussed the motion, and Introduction item number 1 (**AB2025-185**). They discussed whether they can or should appoint two people from the same company to the Forest Advisory Committee.

Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, stated it does not seem that there is anything in the ordinance for this committee precluding people from the same business.

Councilmembers voted on Introduction items one through six (see votes on individual items below).

1. AB2025-185 Appointment to a vacancy on the Forest Advisory Committee, commercial forest landowner position, Applicant(s): Robert Janicki

Buchanan moved and Byrd seconded that the Council Appointment Requiring Introduction be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

2. AB2025-231 Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Section 1.14, Electoral Precincts, with newly established voting precinct boundaries for Whatcom County

Buchanan moved and Byrd seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

3. AB2025-234 Resolution to declare Whatcom County real property as surplus and approve transfer

Buchanan moved and Byrd seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

4. AB2025-246 Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning) regarding home-based businesses

Buchanan moved and Byrd seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

5. AB2025-250 Appointment to a vacancy on the Surface Mining Advisory Committee, Geologist position, Applicant(s): John Byers

Buchanan moved and Byrd seconded that the Council Appointment Requiring Introduction be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

6. AB2025-255 Resolution to sell county tax title property by negotiation

Buchanan moved and Byrd seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

7. AB2025-264 Ordinance to amend Whatcom County Code Section 3.08.100, Council approval required, to increase the threshold for contracts that require council approval

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

7. AB2025-264 Ordinance to amend Whatcom County Code Section 3.08.100, Council approval required, to increase the threshold for contracts that require council approval
- Galloway stated they are choosing one of three versions of the ordinance to introduce.

Scanlon moved to introduce the original proposed ordinance. The motion was seconded by Galloway.

Elenbaas spoke about people wanting more oversight and not less.

Aly Pennucci, Executive's Office, read from a comparison of the different threshold amounts which she presented in committee on February 11 (***AB2025-152***), and stated that as they increase the threshold, Council would still have eyes on the majority of dollars going out the door.

Councilmembers and Pennucci discussed the motion, the comparison graph and threshold amount, that changing the threshold might change the contract approval process, making sure that requiring reporting to the Council is codified, that the graph discussed includes contracts that go to Council across all funds but does not include ones for very large capital projects that are part of a project based budget, that a \$150,000 threshold might be a middle ground, and that they need to think of what is good for the process, regardless of who the executive or council may be in the future.

Byrd moved that they refer this back to committee. The motion was seconded by Scanlon.

Pennucci asked if they could bring it back when it is ready for discussion, but not necessarily at the next meeting.

Byrd amended his motion to refer to the Committee of the Whole.

Byrd moved and Scanlon seconded that the Ordinance be REFERRED TO COMMITTEE and sent to Council Committee of the Whole. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

Referred to Committee of the Whole (with no date set)

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

Councilmembers gave committee reports and updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.


The County Council approved these minutes on April 15, 2025.

ATTEST:



Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA



Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger