

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday, August 11, 2026
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

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

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.

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 or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-064](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 14, 2026
2. [MIN2026-065](#) Committee of the Whole for July 14, 2026
3. [MIN2026-066](#) Regular County Council for July 14, 2026
4. [MIN2026-067](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 28, 2026
5. [MIN2026-068](#) Regular County Council for July 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 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. [AB2026-499](#) Review final project performance on the 2025-2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services grant and proposed activities for the 2026-2027 CDBG Public Services grant

2. [AB2026-518](#) Ordinance declaring public necessity for and the authorization to acquire certain property rights by eminent domain for the Birch Bay Lynden Road and Blaine Road Intersection Improvements Project

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 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, 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. [AB2026-585](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursements of costs related to the Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem program, formerly the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, in the amount of \$84,523
2. [AB2026-586](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cooperative reciprocal agreement between Whatcom County and Skagit County to provide for secure custody and confinement of juvenile offenders as needed
3. [AB2026-591](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and San Juan County to fund the prevention of the use of cannabis and commercial tobacco products by youth for an additional year, in the amount of \$36,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$71,000
4. [AB2026-594](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to utilize State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to sustain and enhance Division of Emergency Management programs, in the amount of \$58,010

5. [AB2026-595](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to move forward with the construction phase of the Birch Bay-Lynden Road and Blaine Road (SR-548) Intersection Improvements project, in the amount of \$3,802,670
6. [AB2026-599](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide a Washington Conservation Corps crew and supervisor, in the amount of \$269,450 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
7. [AB2026-606](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award bid #26-28 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Western Refinery Services for 2026 Swift Creek Channel Excavation in the amount of \$277,641
8. [AB2026-609](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Camis USA to provide reservation and point-of-sale software services, in the amount of \$251,825 over five years
9. [AB2026-610](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and United States Natural Resource Conservation Service for matching funding for the Canyon Creek Forest Conservation Easement, in the amount of \$845,141
10. [AB2026-611](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and United States Natural Resource Conservation Service for matching funding for the Jensen Agriculture Conservation Easement, in the amount of \$750,000

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee)

1. [AB2026-616](#) Resolution renaming Canyon Lake Trail after local conservationist Rand Jack

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

2. [AB2026-580](#) Ordinance establishing the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345 and establishing an initial budget for the Criminal Justice Sales Tax Fund - RCW 82.14.345
3. [AB2026-581](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$3,658,280

4. [AB2026-590](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and AidKit to subsidize child care costs and augment child care providers in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$7,052,947

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

5. [AB2026-559](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations

(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)

6. [AB2026-613](#) Request for motion to accept the jail program and move forward with design and construction of the new jail

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

7. [AB2026-621](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2026-009 to docket an additional comprehensive plan and zoning amendment related to review of 4610 Lincoln Road for inclusion in the Birch Bay Urban Growth Area Reserve

(From Council Committee of the Whole)

8. [AB2026-623](#) Resolution temporarily changing the format of Council committee meetings for Council meeting days

(No Committee Assignment)

9. [AB2026-605](#) Approval of 2027 meeting dates, including Health Board and additional Committee of the Whole meetings

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

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. [AB2026-625](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of James Marks as Director of Whatcom County Planning & Development Services, effective September 14, 2026

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. [AB2026-584](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Planning Commission, District 3 or 4, Applicant(s): Ramon Llanos (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, September 8, 2026)

2. [AB2026-602](#) Resolution modifying the Public Works Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the years 2026-2031
3. [AB2026-603](#) Resolution modifying the 2026 Annual Road Program
4. [AB2026-617](#) Ordinance closing the 23-Hour Crisis Relief Center Fund
5. [AB2026-618](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility Fund, request no. 12
6. [AB2026-619](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 12, in the amount of \$2,094,013

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN