

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

**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); AGENDA REVISION 8.11.2026**

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

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

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-064](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 14, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Elenbaas

2. [MIN2026-065](#) Committee of the Whole for July 14, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Elenbaas

3. [MIN2026-066](#) Regular County Council for July 14, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Elenbaas

4. [MIN2026-067](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for July 28, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Elenbaas

5. [MIN2026-068](#) Regular County Council for July 28, 2026

APPROVED BY CONSENT

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Elenbaas

PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

PUBLIC HEARING HELD (file final)

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

FAILED

Aye: 0

Nay: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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 \$277,341.62

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

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

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

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 \$277,341.62

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee)

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

APPROVED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-035

(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

ADOPTED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-044

3. [AB2026-581](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$3,658,280

ADOPTED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-045

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

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

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

ADOPTED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-046

(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

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved 5-2, with Rienstra and Stremler opposed, that the Council accepts the jail program as presented, and requests that the Executive continues to prioritize the inclusion of the Rapid Resource Center, second court room with workspaces, and family contact visitation space, without sacrificing housing capacity, and requests the Executive to move forward with design and preliminary construction activities.

(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

HELD IN COMMITTEE

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 1 - Elenbaas

(From Council Committee of the Whole)

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

APPROVED

Aye: 4 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

Abstain: 1 - Rienstra

Enactment No: RES 2026-036

(No Committee Assignment)

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

APPROVED BY THE COUNCILMEMBERS

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENT

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

CONFIRMED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

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)

INTRODUCED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-602](#) Resolution modifying the Public Works Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the years 2026-2031

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-603](#) Resolution modifying the 2026 Annual Road Program

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-617](#) Ordinance closing the 23-Hour Crisis Relief Center Fund

INTRODUCED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-618](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility Fund, request no. 12

INTRODUCED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-619](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 12, in the amount of \$2,094,013

INTRODUCED

Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremmer

Nay: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN