

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Meeting Agenda**

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026**

**6 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL  
360.778.5010)**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

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

### **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](http://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](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1585) or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

### COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

#### MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-036](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for April 14, 2026
2. [MIN2026-037](#) Committee of the Whole for April 14, 2026
3. [MIN2026-038](#) Regular County Council for April 14, 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](http://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. [AB2026-281](#) Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Code Chapter 16.38, Source Control of Existing Development, to require the use of best management practices for stormwater pollution prevention within the Whatcom County, Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit Area

## **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](http://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, LSS2022-00001 Red Mountain 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. [AB2026-055](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to support the Nooksack Riparian Resilience Project for restoration planning, partner coordination, and restoration implementation, in the amount of \$2,244,875 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
2. [AB2026-264](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County & Washington State University (WSU) to continue the jointly shared costs for faculty positions and program support for WSU Whatcom Extension in the amount of \$60,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$3,885,050.90
3. [AB2026-290](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Military Department to assist Whatcom County in preparing for all hazards, in the amount of \$65,507
4. [AB2026-301](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Pacific Security to continue security services for the Whatcom County Courthouse, in the amount of \$165,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$477,416.14

5. [AB2026-312](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Kulshan Community Land Trust for the development of eight energy-efficient, permanently affordable townhomes, in the amount of \$436,902.48
6. [AB2026-313](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to relinquish a foot trail easement held by the Whatcom Land Trust, located within South Fork Park
7. [AB2026-317](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Transportation to complete a multimodal path connecting the communities of Kendall and Glacier, in the amount of \$425,000
8. [AB2026-324](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Whatcom Long Term Recovery Group to correct the effective date of a recently approved rate increase to December 1, 2025, with no change to the contract amount (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
9. [AB2026-329](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Peace Centers to maintain a coordinated system of licensed drop-in childcare within Whatcom County in the amount of \$290,676.84, for a total amended contract amount of \$790,597.84
10. [AB2026-331](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide funding for capital and operational expenses for the Cedar Commons Early Learning Center, in the amount of \$291,676
11. [AB2026-334](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Seattle Foundation to provide funding for projects that further the goals and objectives of the Trueblood Settlement Agreement, in the amount of \$3,603,879
12. [AB2026-335](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide funding for the second phase of the low-income Bellis Fair Housing development, in the amount of \$1,386,485

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)**

1. [AB2026-209](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 7, in the amount of \$23,290,457

2. [AB2026-212](#) Resolution ordering the cancellation of unredeemed checks (warrants) more than one year old
3. [AB2026-292](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 1, in the amount of \$23,406 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)
4. [AB2026-295](#) Resolution authorizing the submission of three independent grant applications to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board to restore fish passage at the Black Slough and Homesteader culverts and to complete the final design and permitting of the Tinling Creek culvert project (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**(From Council Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee)**

5. [AB2026-291](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.04.080, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Board, and Section 5.04.085, EMS Technical Advisory Board, to change the membership of the EMS Oversight Board and the EMS Technical Advisory Board
6. [AB2026-340](#) Resolution establishing a preliminary planning budget cap, affirming governing commitments, and providing recommendations to the administration from the Whatcom County Council on the capital construction of the Whatcom County Jail and Behavioral Care Center

**(From Council Planning and Development Committee)**

7. [AB2026-330](#) Resolution approving recommendations on Open Space applications

**(No Committee Assignment)**

8. [AB2026-318](#) Request for motion to appoint a councilmember as an alternate representative to the Northwest Clean Air Agency
9. [AB2026-319](#) Request for motion to approve a letter in support of the Whatcom Land Trust's grant application to the state Recreation and Conservation Office's Community Forest Program to acquire property to expand the Stewart Mountain Community Forest
10. [AB2026-272](#) Request for motion regarding council meeting procedures for discussion of agenda bill items on the day of introduction

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-275](#) Appointments to vacancies on the Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee, various positions, Applicant(s) Markis Dee Stidham, Corey Williams, Virgil Thompson, Jonathan King, Susan Hutton

2. [AB2026-297](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Public Health Advisory Board, Applicant(s): Michelle Gillig
3. [AB2026-300](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Marine Trades position, Applicant(s): Rex Rhoades

### **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. [AB2026-337](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Barry Buchanan to the Veterans Advisory Board

### **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. [AB2026-325](#) Receipt of applications to vacancies on the Lynden/Everson Flood Subzone Advisory Committee, Applicants: Ladd Shumway, Jackie Abercrombie (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors) (Deadline for applications to these positions is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026)
2. [AB2026-339](#) Ordinance establishing a Ferry District to fund and manage the Lummi Island ferry system

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES**

#### **ADJOURN**