

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Action Summary**

**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); AGENDA REVISION 4.24.2026**

### **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

**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. [MIN2026-036](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for April 14, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [MIN2026-037](#) Committee of the Whole for April 14, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [MIN2026-038](#) Regular County Council for April 14, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

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

**SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-021

## **OPEN SESSION**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

**(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

#### **AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

#### **AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

#### **AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

#### **AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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)

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

**CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY**

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

**AUTHORIZED**

**Aye:** 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 1 - Stremler

**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

**ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-022

2. [AB2026-212](#) Resolution ordering the cancellation of unredeemed checks (warrants) more than one year old

**APPROVED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-011

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)

**APPROVED**

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

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

Enactment No: RES 2026-012

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)

**APPROVED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-013

**(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

**SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-023

Adopted the Revised Substitute Ordinance as Amended in Committee 4.28.2026.

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

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

MOTION 1

Motion approved 4-3, with Elenbaas, Stremler, and Buchanan opposed, to hold this item for one week.

MOTION 2

Motion approved 4-3, with Rienstra, Scanlon, Boyle opposed, that the Whatcom County Council preliminarily expresses support for a preliminary planning budget ceiling of \$205 million for the jail and \$34 million for the Behavioral Care Center (\$20 million from the sales tax and \$14 million from grants and state sources) as a framework for completing the programming exercise and not authorizing debt, with the understanding that the forthcoming Buchanan resolution will clarify planning principles parameters and Council priorities.

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

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

**SUBSTITUTE APPROVED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-014

**(No Committee Assignment)**

8. [AB2026-318](#) Request for motion to appoint a councilmember as an alternate representative to the Northwest Clean Air Agency

**APPOINTED**

Motion approved 5-1, with Elenbaas opposed and Buchanan out of the meeting, that Council appoint councilmember Scanlon as the 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

**APPROVED REQUEST**

**Aye:** 4 - Boyle, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

**Temp Absent:** 1 - Buchanan

10. [AB2026-272](#) Request for motion regarding council meeting procedures for discussion of agenda bill items on the day of introduction

**REFERRED TO COMMITTEE**

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

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold this item for a future committee meeting.

### **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

**APPOINTED**

Motion approved 7-0 to appoint Jonathan King to the resident of Whatcom County who does not live or own property on Lummi Island. Partial term ending January 31st, 2028.

Appointed Markis Dee Stidham with 6 votes to the vacancy for an applicant who lives or owns property on Lummi Island.

2. [AB2026-297](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Public Health Advisory Board, Applicant(s): Michelle Gillig

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

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

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

### **CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

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

**CONFIRMED**

**Aye:** 6 - Boyle, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 1 - Buchanan

### **ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

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)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-339](#) Ordinance establishing a Ferry District to fund and manage the Lummi Island ferry system

**INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**Nay:** 0

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES****MOTION FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- [AB2026-342](#) Discussion with Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Jesse Corkern regarding potential litigation and approval of settlement, and separation agreement. [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1) (i)]

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Motion approved 7-0 for approval to authorize the appropriation of funds to facilitate the settlement of a personnel matter as discussed in executive session on April 28, 2026 based on the findings that this proposed settlement action is both reasonable and in Whatcom County's best interests.

**ADJOURN**