

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Action Summary**

**Tuesday, February 10, 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 2.9.2026**

### **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. [MIN2026-007](#) Special Committee of the Whole for January 13, 2026

#### **APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [MIN2026-009](#) Committee of the Whole for January 13, 2026

#### **APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [MIN2026-010](#) Regular County Council for January 13, 2026

#### **APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [MIN2026-011](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for January 27, 2026

#### **APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [MIN2026-012](#) Committee of the Whole for January 27, 2026

#### **APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

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6. [MIN2026-013](#) Regular County Council for January 27, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. [AB2026-118](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.40.010 to change the permit threshold for outdoor musical entertainment, amusements, and assemblies

**ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-003

**OPEN SESSION**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. [AB2026-060](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Snohomish County Department of Emergency Management to utilize State Homeland Security Grant Program funding to sustain and enhance Division of Emergency Management programs, in the amount of \$47,479

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-068](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Port of Bellingham for Fairhaven Marine Industrial Park Infrastructure Improvements, in the amount of \$3,000,000

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-069](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the What-Comm Communications Center in support of reimbursement for 911 capital equipment expenses in the amount of \$94,107

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2026-092](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to affirm and jointly agree to the terms of financial support for the Whatcom Racial Equity Commission in 2026, including a financial commitment by the County in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 and a financial commitment by the City in an amount not to exceed \$100,000

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-116](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to obligate federal Ferry Boat Program funds for the Lummi Island Ferry operating costs, in the amount of \$1,920,916 for a total amended contract amount of \$3,596,616

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-117](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to provide funding for various public health services in the amount of \$166,766, for a total amended agreement amount of \$11,128,322

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

7. [AB2026-122](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization to recognize and allocate revenue to Whatcom County for its participation in the North Sound Integrated Care Network, in the amount of \$725,761.41

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2026-123](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Land Trust to provide pass-through grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the purchase of Phase 1 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$665,402

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

9. [AB2026-127](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington Initiative for Supported Employment to provide developmental disabilities-related training and technical assistance services in the amount of \$20,000, for a total amended contract amount of \$59,500

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

10. [AB2026-133](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and King Architecture, PLLC for additional design and electrical engineering services for the Van Zandt Community Hall renovation, in the amount of \$13,540 for a total amended contract amount of \$132,394

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

11. [AB2026-137](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17 for the period January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2028

**WITHDRAWN**

12. [AB2026-142](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a purchase agreement between Whatcom County and Western Washington University for the purchase of property located at 333 32nd Street, Bellingham WA (Tax Parcel No. 370306340528), in the amount of \$8,056,584

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

13. [AB2026-147](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement between Whatcom County and Western Washington University (WWU) for WWU's use of the facility located at 333 32nd Street, Bellingham WA for two years, revenue amount of \$174,878

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

**CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY**

6. [AB2026-117](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to provide funding for various public health services in the amount of \$166,766, for a total amended agreement amount of \$11,128,322

**AUTHORIZED**

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

**Nay:** 1 - Stremler

8. [AB2026-123](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Land Trust to provide pass-through grant funding from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the purchase of Phase 1 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$665,402

**AUTHORIZED**

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

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

12. [AB2026-142](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a purchase agreement between Whatcom County and Western Washington University for the purchase of property located at 333 32nd Street, Bellingham WA (Tax Parcel No. 370306340528), in the amount of \$8,056,584

**AUTHORIZED**

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

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

13. [AB2026-147](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement between Whatcom County and Western Washington University (WWU) for WWU's use of the facility located at 333 32nd Street, Bellingham WA for two years, revenue amount of \$174,878

**AUTHORIZED**

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

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

**OTHER ITEMS**

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2026-094](#) Ordinance closing the Northwest Annex Redevelopment Fund

**ADOPTED**

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

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

**Temp Absent:** 1 - Buchanan

Enactment No: ORD 2026-004

2. [AB2026-098](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Hovander Park Building Improvements Project, request no. 4

**ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

**Temp Absent:** 1 - Buchanan

Enactment No: ORD 2026-005

3. [AB2026-104](#) Ordinance establishing the 32nd Street Property Acquisition Fund and establishing an initial budget for the 32nd Street Property Acquisition Fund

**SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED**

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

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

Enactment No: ORD 2026-006

4. [AB2026-100](#) Ordinance establishing the Glacier Restroom Improvements Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Glacier Restroom Improvements Fund

**ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-007

5. [AB2026-102](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 10

**ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

Enactment No: ORD 2026-008

6. [AB2026-110](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$7,123,065

**ADOPTED**

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

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

Enactment No: ORD 2026-009

**(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)**

7. [AB2026-129](#) Resolution requesting Washington State officials and Whatcom County's Congressional delegation work to secure the release of approved Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds for Whatcom County homeowners

**SUBSTITUTE APPROVED**

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

**Nay:** 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-006

**(From Council Committee of the Whole)**

8. [AB2026-132](#) Request for motion to designate one Council representative to participate on the Emergency Medical Services 2029-2034 Levy Committee

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Motion approved 7-0 to appoint Elenbaas as the lead representative and Galloway as the alternate.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-125](#) Appointment to vacancies on the Planning Commission, Applicant(s): Lindsey Elenbaas

**APPOINTED**

Motion approved 6-0 (with Elenbaas recusing himself) to accept late applications.

Appointed Matthew Berry to one position with five votes (Elenbaas recused) and HELD THE APPLICATION PROCESS OPEN.

**CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-131](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Sean Hopps to the Whatcom County Food System Committee

**CONFIRMED**

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

**Nay:** 1 - Elenbaas

2. [AB2026-136](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Paul Cline to the Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee

**CONFIRMED**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-140](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's reappointment of Liz Baxter to the Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services Oversight Board

**CONFIRMED**

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

**Nay:** 0

**ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

1. [AB2026-040](#) Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

2. [AB2026-114](#) Ordinance establishing the project budget for the Strawberry Point/Lake Whatcom Boulevard stormwater improvements, request no. 1

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-115](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, business/industry position, applicant(s): Troy Lautenbach (Deadline for additional applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 17, 2026)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2026-124](#) Receipt of Public Works memo regarding the proposed tasks and preliminary schedule for the Whatcom County Climate Action Plan Update which is required every 5 years by Ordinance No. 2017-080

**RECEIVED**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-128](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, representing higher education, applicant(s): Patricia Newbold (deadline for additional applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-134](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Courthouse Building Envelope Fund, request no. 7

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2026-143](#) Ordinance establishing the Ferndale Senior Activity Center Improvements Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Ferndale Senior Activity Center Improvements Fund

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2026-145](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$1,804,963

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY**

1. [AB2026-040](#) Ordinance establishing Whatcom County Code Section 2.02.195 Performance Audits

**HELD IN COMMITTEE**

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

**Nay:** 0

Motion approved to hold this item in committee and schedule that next discussion for the February 24th Committee of the Whole meeting. It was not introduced.

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