

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, OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISION 2.9.2026

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. [MIN2026-007](#) 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

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 - Stremmler

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 Stremmler

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 Stremmler

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 Stremmler

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 Stremmler

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**