

Whatcom County Council

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



Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, October 7, 2025
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 REVISED 10.6.2025**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL
Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, reported on the mid-biennium budget and the upcoming presentation of the executive's recommended budget adjustments, and his trip to India in the coming weeks.

MINUTES CONSENT

Buchanan moved to accept the minutes consent items. The motion was seconded by Scanlon (see votes on individual items below).

1. [MIN2025-058](#) Special Council and Planning Commission for September 16, 2025

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2025-059](#) Special Committee of the Whole for September 16, 2025

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

3. [MIN2025-060](#) Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board for September 16, 2025

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

4. [MIN2025-061](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for September 23, 2025

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

5. [MIN2025-062](#) Committee of the Whole for September 23, 2025

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

6. [MIN2025-063](#) Regular County Council for September 23, 2025

Buchanan moved and Scanlon seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2025-575](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 3.05, Tort and Damage Claims, to create a risk management committee and clarify the processing of tort claims

Galloway stated this is a substitute ordinance. She opened the Public Hearing and the following person spoke:

- John Westerfield

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Public Hearing.

Buchanan moved and Donovan seconded that the SUBSTITUTE Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED.

Galloway asked if the ordinance should still be considered a substitute if the changes made were not substantive.

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, stated that the “Substitute Ordinance revised in committee 9.23.2025” was recommend to Council as it was amended in committee on September 23 and since then, there has been

another substitute ordinance added (attached as “Substitute Ordinance 10.7.2025” with yellow highlighted edits) which also has some minor non-substantive edits from legal. She asked for clarification on the motion and Galloway and Donovan confirmed it would be adopting the “Substitute Ordinance 10.7.2025,” which is the most up-to-date version.

Councilmembers discussed the motion, that they should line up the next step for this which is designating the councilmember who will be on the working group, and that future councils may want to consider additional code changes.

Buchanan's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be ADOPTED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-048

Adopted Substitute Ordinance 10.7.2025

2. [AB2025-597](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County real property as surplus and approving transfer
Galloway opened the Public Hearing and hearing no one, closed the Public Hearing.

Byrd moved and Buchanan seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be APPROVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-031

OPEN SESSION

The following people spoke:

- John Westerfield
- Austin Streubel
- David Foreman
- Dave Chase
- Daniel Harm
- Scott Farrell
- Lyle Sorenson
- Danielle Gaughen

- Natalie Chavez

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Open Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** to approve Consent Agenda item numbers 1-9, 11, 12, and 14 with item numbers 10 and 13 being voted on separately. Councilmembers voted on those items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2025-669](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families to administer the Nurse Family Partnership Program, in the amount of \$393,195

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-670](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lutheran Community Services Northwest to lease a facility intended for use as a severe weather shelter, in the amount of \$66,455

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-671](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. to provide adjudication technical assistance, in the amount of \$105,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-675](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and GeoTest Services, Inc. in the amount of \$50,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$250,000

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-683](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement between Whatcom County and Squalicum Mountain Holdings LLC to lease space on a radio tower on Squalicum Mountain, in the amount of \$135,841

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-686](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Northwest Educational Services District 189 to participate in the Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, in the amount of \$12,000

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-687](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Snohomish County to participate in the Youth Cannabis and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, in the amount of \$45,000

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-689](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and San Juan County to participate in the Youth Cannabis

and Commercial Tobacco Prevention Program, in the amount of \$29,000

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-690](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Lookout Mountain Holdings LLC to add equipment to the radio tower lease, in the amount of \$36,269

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

10. [AB2025-691](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Land Trust to provide funding from the Conservation Futures Fund to fulfill requirements of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Whatcom Land Trust to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$200,000

This item was considered separately below.

11. [AB2025-692](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a lease agreement amendment between Whatcom County and SpectraSite Communications, LLC to add equipment to the radio tower lease, in the amount of \$24,969

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

12. [AB2025-695](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington Traffic Safety Commission for high visibility enforcement (HVE) traffic safety emphasis overtime patrols, in the amount of \$28,000

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion

carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

13. [AB2025-697](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2025-021 to designate the Chair of the Council Finance Committee as an Alternate Director to the Risk Pool Board of Directors

This item was considered separately below.

14. [AB2025-698](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Communications NorthWest to configure, install and provide point to point microwave network installations, in the amount of \$159,224

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

10. [AB2025-691](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Whatcom Land Trust to provide funding from the Conservation Futures Fund to fulfill requirements of the Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Whatcom Land Trust to acquire Phase 2 of the Stewart Mountain Community Forest, in the amount of \$200,000

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Agreement be AUTHORIZED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler

13. [AB2025-697](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2025-021 to designate the Chair of the Council Finance Committee as an Alternate Director to the Risk Pool Board of Directors

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and **moved** that the Resolution be TABLED.

Galloway stated that the discussion was based on the code amendments they approved this evening. With the establishment of their internal risk work group, it became less necessary for a council member to serve as an alternate on the risk pool board, and there were other processes that they implemented in collaboration with the executive's team, HR, and the

Prosecutor's Office to enhance transparency and communication with Council.

Donovan's motion that the Resolution be TABLED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee)

1. [AB2025-603](#) Resolution receiving the Forest Resilience Plan submitted by the Forest Resilience Task Force

Galloway reported for the Climate Action and Natural Resources Committee and **moved** to approve the substitute as amended in committee (attached as “Substitute Resolution - revised in committee 10.7.2025”). This substitute also includes further amendments made by legal after the committee met today.

Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, spoke about legal's amendments and stated he just wanted to make sure the language was consistent with County Code 2.123 which provides for and establishes our Forest Advisory Committee (FAC).

Galloway summarized the amendments that were approved in committee (in yellow highlight) and stated that what staff did for consideration tonight is make the FAC substitute version clean, and then re-mark it with Council's committee-recommended amendments in yellow and legal's amendments in red. The changes in red are not changing the intent of the language but just clarifying it, pursuant to our own code.

Elenbaas moved to amend the resolution to accept the edits as proposed by legal.

The motion was seconded by Galloway.

Councilmembers and Quinn discussed that the third statement on page three of the substitute resolution after committee states “including the provision of sufficient county staff support” while the clause just above it was earlier amended to say, “*may* require additional staff capacity.”

Galloway moved to amend legal's amendments to the third clause on page

three to strike “including” and replace with “which may include” so that it reads:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that the Council receives Exhibit A, the Forest Resilience Plan, as submitted by the Forest Resilience Task Force as an initial draft, and commits to supporting ongoing work related to forest resilience in Whatcom County, which may include the provision of sufficient county staff support; and

The motion was seconded by Scanlon.

The motion to amend legal's amendments carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Stremler, Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 0

The motion to accept the edits as proposed by legal (as just amended) carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Councilmembers discussed the main motion to approve the substitute resolution as amended, that the resolution refers to the Forest Resilience Plan as a draft so Exhibit A should be labeled as a draft on an added cover page, and that they should watermark all the pages as draft.

Scanlon moved to amend the main motion to add “Draft” to the Forest Resilience Plan document, to the legislative record, and to the Forest Resilience Task Force website.

The motion was seconded by Byrd.

Galloway spoke about adding the watermark as well.

The motion to amend carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, Stremler, and Buchanan

Nay: 0

Galloway shared her gratitude for all those who have been involved in this process, where the vision of a Forest Resilience Plan came from, and what

she appreciated about the process.

Galloway's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be APPROVED AS AMENDED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-032

Motion approved 7-0 to amend the third clause on page three to strike “including” and replace with “which may include” so that it reads:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that the Council receives Exhibit A, the Forest Resilience Plan, as submitted by the Forest Resilience Task Force as an initial draft, and commits to supporting ongoing work related to forest resilience in Whatcom County, which may include the provision of sufficient county staff support; and

Motion approved 7-0 to amend to accept the edits as proposed by legal (to the substitute version as amended in committee)

Motion approved 7-0 to amend the main motion to add “Draft” to the Forest Resilience Plan document, to the legislative record, and to the Forest Resilience Task Force website

(No Committee Assignment)

2. [AB2025-699](#) Request for motion to appoint three Councilmembers to Joint Advisory Workgroup for Justice Project planning purposes

Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office, stated there are a lot of decision-makers involved with the Justice Project and they need a vehicle for bringing all of these groups together in between these public meetings to advise the project team on the day-to-day or week-to-week questions and decisions they will be asking throughout the validation and pre-design phase of the project. The purpose is not necessarily to make the decisions in these meetings, but rather for stakeholders and elected officials to get comfortable with the material that is being presented, and to ask questions so staff can do research in advance of a Council or Finance and Facility Board meeting. They think these meetings will begin late fall and could occur more than monthly. She presented the proposal for their consideration and who the recommended participants are (the Council chair, the chair of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, and one other council member).

Both Elenbaas and Stremler stated they would like to be the one appointed for the third position.

Councilmembers discussed that the appointees cannot constitute a quorum this year but also in 2026 when new councilmembers and maybe chairs will be in place, and other ideas for how to appoint the three.

The following people spoke and answered questions:

- Satpal Sidhu, County Executive
- Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office

They discussed with councilmembers how this group came about, that they can revisit the members in January, how many meetings there might be in the last months of 2025, and whether appointing an alternate for the third position would still be in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA).

Galloway moved that they nominate Buchanan, Galloway, Elenbaas, and Stremler for the Joint Advisory Workgroup for Justice Project planning purposes (and vote for three).

The motion was seconded by Byrd.

Councilmembers voted for three councilmembers and Buchanan (7 votes), Galloway (7 votes), and Elenbaas (4 votes) were appointed as follows:

Elenbaas: Buchanan, Galloway, and Elenbaas

Galloway: Buchanan, Galloway, and Stremler

Scanlon: Buchanan, Galloway, and Stremler

Stremler: Buchanan, Galloway, and Stremler

Buchanan: Buchanan, Galloway, and Elenbaas

Byrd: Buchanan, Galloway, and Elenbaas

Donovan: Buchanan, Galloway, and Elenbaas

Galloway stated they will reassess in the new year based on new committee assignments.

This agenda item was APPOINTED.

Appointed Buchanan (7 votes), Galloway (7 votes), and Elenbaas (4 votes)

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-641](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Forest Advisory Committee, harvester or silviculturist, Applicant(s): Shelby Beam

Galloway asked if the applicant was present and wished to speak to Council but Beam was not present.

Donovan moved and Byrd seconded that the Council Appointment be APPOINTED.

Galloway spoke about a concern brought up yesterday at the Forest Advisory Committee that if they appoint this applicant, the committee would have three Janicki Logging-related members which may create an imbalance or uncomfortable power dynamic.

Councilmembers discussed the motion, the concern, and whether they should amend the code for the future.

Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered if it would create a conflict and stated nothing legally keeps them from appointing the applicant.

Councilmembers continued to discuss the applicant and the position.

Donovan's motion that the Council Appointment be APPOINTED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2025-681](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Deon Wolfenbarger to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission

Buchanan moved and Byrd seconded that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED.

Donovan stated there were applications back in February, and this one came in September. He asked what the issue was with why it took so long to get to Council.

Bennett Knox, Parks and Recreation Department Director, spoke about the process the Parks and Recreation Commission went through to fill a number of vacancies, and stated there was a desire to wait and get a breadth of experience on the commission that represents the challenges they face.

Councilmembers discussed a resignation from the other at-large position on this committee and another applicant, Matt Hargleroad, who would be a good fit for that spot.

Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, stated Hargleroad's appointment could be at the next meeting.

Knox answered questions about who did the voting and stated the commission agreed to go through a ranked choice process to have the opportunity to provide input on the applications they received. He answered why Hargleroad was not appointed even though it appears (from an email received by the Council) that he was the highest-scoring of the original applicants.

Byrd stated this committee is for advising the executive or the executive departments and it specifically says in the code that it is for advising Parks and Recreation and the department director, so they are choosing people based on their needs and what they are trying to get for information and advice from that group. He does not think it is the Council's place to be picking who goes on the commission or double-checking the ranking.

Scanlon stated this applicant is a good fit for this position.

Buchanan's motion that the Executive Appointment be CONFIRMED carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2025-704](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Ferndale Community Services to operate a severe weather shelter in Ferndale, in the amount of \$145,993

Donovan reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Donovan moved to introduce Introduction item numbers 1-9.

The motion was seconded by Buchanan.

Galloway stated **AB2025-637**, regarding the Countywide Planning Policies, will be routed straight to a public hearing (not to committee again) at the

next Council meeting.

Scanlon requested that they vote on Introduction item number 5 (**AB2025-676**) separately.

Galloway stated **AB2025-678**, is a substitute ordinance.

Councilmembers voted on Introduction item numbers 1-4 and 6-9 (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2025-637](#) Ordinance amending the Countywide Planning Policies, which reside in Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Appendix C

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-672](#) Resolution approving the Public Works Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the years 2026-2031

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-673](#) Resolution adopting the 2026 Annual Road Program

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-674](#) Receipt of report from Public Works Director

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Receipt of Document(s) be

RECEIVED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

5. AB2025-676 Resolution adopting the 2026-2031 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program (WRIP) (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

This item was considered separately below.

6. AB2025-678 Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 9

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the SUBSTITUTE Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

7. AB2025-680 Resolution amending the 2025 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$49,400 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

8. AB2025-682 Ordinance establishing the Silver Lake Lagoon Project Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Silver Lake Lagoon Bridge Fund

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

9. AB2025-685 Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 11, in the amount of \$517,671

Donovan moved and Buchanan seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

5. [AB2025-676](#) Resolution adopting the 2026-2031 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program (WRIP) (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon moved and Elenbaas seconded that the Resolution (FCZDBS) Requiring a Public Hearing be WITHDRAWN.

Scanlon stated the Public Works Department found there are a few changes that are needed and they need some time to update the resolution. He stated there were some changes in the funding sources for some of the items and there may also be some items removed from year one, so they will bring it back for introduction in two weeks.

Elizabeth Kosa, Public Works Department Director, spoke about the error in the funding source (the Road Fund and REET did not match the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)). She answered whether the changes would be substantive, requiring introduction in two weeks instead of tonight, and stated they know they are going to have to move one of the projects from year one to year two (with regard to the stormwater project) and she believes that is substantive.

Christopher Quinn, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, stated that would be a substantive change.

Scanlon's motion that the Resolution (FCZDBS) Requiring a Public Hearing be WITHDRAWN carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

This item was withdrawn from Introduction and will be scheduled for introduction at a future meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

Councilmembers gave committee reports.

Scanlon asked about the timeline regarding the budget after it is presented

by the executive then introduced in two weeks.

Galloway stated it will be delivered by or before October 20th, which sets them up for two potential pathways. First, if the Administration is able to release the budget earlier, it would allow the Council to introduce it on October 21st and then hold a public hearing and consider taking action on Wednesday, November 5th. Alternately, if they release it on October 20th, and they hold a public hearing on November 5th, Council could consider introducing it on the 5th or at the subsequent meeting on November 18th. They would then preliminarily schedule a meeting in December at which they would consider final action. The second pathway builds in a lot of opportunity for community engagement and feedback, and gives the Council more time to process the budget. A special meeting on December 2nd is when they would take action. She answered questions on the potential pathways.

Aly Pennucci, Executive's Office, stated this is a mid-biennium adjustment and not a full budget adoption process. She asked whether a special Council meeting on December 2nd would be an evening meeting and Galloway stated the starting time they reserved is 1 p.m. and it would go until they are done.

Councilmembers and Pennucci discussed the mid-biennium process and the possibility of consolidating some of the public hearings.

Councilmembers emailed and verbally gave updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

ADJOURN

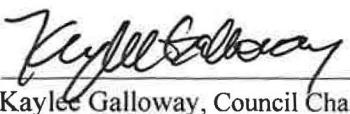
The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on October 21, 2025.

ATTEST:



WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA



Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger