

Whatcom County Council

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



Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 24, 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)**

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.

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 or contact the Council Office at 360-778-5010.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-023](#) Special Committee of the Whole for March 3, 2026
2. [MIN2026-024](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for March 10, 2026
3. [MIN2026-025](#) Regular County Council for March 10, 2026
4. [MIN2026-026](#) Committee of the Whole for March 10, 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 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. [AB2026-213](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code

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 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. [AB2026-214](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an amended interlocal between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Transportation to increase the grant in the amount of \$34,250
2. [AB2026-220](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Puget Sound Partnership to provide grant funding for the development of a source control business inspection program that complies with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), in the amount of \$100,817
3. [AB2026-222](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham for the County to provide administrative oversight to the City concerning Domestic Violence Perpetrator Opportunity for Treatment Services (DVPOTS) for a total amount of \$150,000
4. [AB2026-225](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to relocate an All Hazards Alert Broadcast siren in the amount of \$45,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$45,000

5. [AB2026-226](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to purchase and distribute basic needs items to low-income families with children ages 0-5 in the amount of \$17,250 for a total amended contract amount of \$111,061
6. [AB2026-227](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Whatcom Center for Early Learning to expand mental health support services to low-income children in the amount of \$289,854 for a total amended contract amount of \$688,563
7. [AB2026-228](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Bellingham Food Bank to support operations for procuring/purchasing, warehousing and distributing food and other essentials to low and very low income families in the amount of \$500,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$1,945,000
8. [AB2026-229](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to expand services to eligible families through a Case Manager Position in the Single Entry Access to Services Program in the amount of \$46,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$86,000
9. [AB2026-230](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to execute a Federal Aid Project Prospectus for the design phase of the Birch Bay-Lynden Road and Kickerville Road Intersection Improvements project in the amount of \$260,000
10. [AB2026-236](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Lutheran Community Services Northwest to lease a facility intended for use as a severe weather shelter in the amount of \$32,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$98,455
11. [AB2026-241](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Skagit County to Skagit County's servers, in the amount of \$5,000

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2026-114](#) Ordinance establishing the project budget for the Strawberry Point/Lake Whatcom Boulevard stormwater improvements, request no. 1
2. [AB2026-134](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Courthouse Building Envelope Fund, request no. 7

3. [AB2026-143](#) Ordinance establishing the Ferndale Senior Activity Center Improvements Fund and establishing an initial budget for the Ferndale Senior Activity Center Improvements Fund
4. [AB2026-181](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Eagleridge Stormwater Improvements Project Fund, request no. 1
5. [AB2026-183](#) Ordinance amending the project based budget for the Swift Creek Capital Projects Fund, request no. 3
6. [AB2026-200](#) Ordinance closing the Bellingham Senior Center HVAC Replacement Fund
7. [AB2026-204](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 5, in the amount of \$741,113
8. [AB2026-206](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 6, in the amount of \$3,920,278
9. [AB2026-238](#) Resolution updating the appendix of the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) project list

(No Committee Assignment)

10. [AB2026-242](#) Request for motion to approve a letter to Representative Rick Larsen thanking him for his work to secure the release of federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency
11. [AB2026-243](#) Assignment of a councilmember to serve on the Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance Committee
12. [AB2026-244](#) Request for motion to approve a letter of support for a grant application to the Washington State Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Grant Program for improvements around Alderwood Elementary School

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. [AB2026-221](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee, criminal legal system user, applicant(s): Cesar Luna (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2026)
2. [AB2026-232](#) Receipt of applications to a vacancy on the Planning Commission, District 4 or 5, Applicants: Lindsey Elenbaas, Gurdeep Bains, Jeremy Thompson (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 7, 2026)

3. [AB2026-239](#) Receipt of Whatcom County Council strategic planning workshop meeting report

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN