

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole-Executive Session

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



Committee Minutes - Final

**Tuesday, September 9, 2025
8:45 AM
Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 9:55 A.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil, OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISED 9.5.2025

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

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

Announcements

Committee Discussion

Attorney Present: Christopher Quinn, Jesse Corkern, and Kimberly Thulin.

Galloway stated that agenda item one was withdrawn from the agenda and that discussion of agenda items two through five may take place in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i) for items two, three and four, and RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b) for item five. Executive session will conclude no later than 9:55 a.m. If the meeting extends beyond the stated conclusion time, the Council chair will make a public announcement.

Byrd moved to go into executive session until no later than 9:55 a.m. to discuss the agenda item(s) pursuant to the RCW citation(s) as announced by the Council Chair. The motion was seconded by Buchanan.

Donovan and Kimberly Thulin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, discussed whether there is a way they would be able to report out on some of their discussion with respect to executive orders and any impact on contracts.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Councilmembers entered executive session at 8:50 a.m.

At 9:51 a.m., the Council chair announced that the executive session would extend to no later than 10:05 a.m.

At 10:05 a.m., the Council chair announced that the executive session would extend to no later than 10:10 a.m.

1. [AB2025-578](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Christopher Quinn regarding opioid settlements and Whatcom County's participation in the G8 and Sackler/Purdue Opioid Settlement Agreements and the Thirteenth Amended Joint

Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization of Purdue Pharma L.P. and its Affiliated Debtors, filed July 1, 2025 [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1)(i)]

This agenda item was WITHDRAWN.

2. [AB2025-598](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern regarding Richard Arthur Kirkham, Plaintiff vs. City of Bellingham et al., Defendants, United States District Court Western District of Washington, No. 2:24-CV-01625-DGE-SKV, including defense and indemnification of Kellen Kooistra, Deputy Prosecutor, named as a defendant [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1)(i)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

3. [AB2025-599](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern on current Whatcom County litigation [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1)(i)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

4. [AB2025-605](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor, Jesse Corkern, regarding recent executive orders issued by the current presidential administration, which affect the allocation and availability of federal funding to the County. [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110 (1)(i)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

5. [AB2025-631](#) Discussion with Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Chris Quinn regarding the potential lease or acquisition of real property [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(b)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on September 23, 2025.

ATTEST:



Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA


Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger