

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, May 26, 2026

9:50 AM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:55 A.M. (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

Call To Order

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

Announcements

Committee Discussion

Attorneys Present: Tom Seguire, Jesse Corkern, and Kimberly Thulin
Galloway stated that discussion of agenda item one may take place in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) for AB2026-383 and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for AB2026-405, AB2026-406, and AB2026-407. Executive session will conclude no later than 10:55 a.m. If the meeting extends beyond the stated conclusion time, the Council chair will make a public announcement.

Rienstra moved to go into executive session until no later than 10:55 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 Boyle.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Out of the Meeting: 1 - Scanlon

Councilmembers entered executive session at 9:53 a.m.

Clerk's Note: Scanlon joined the meeting shortly after the vote.

1. [AB2026-383](#) Discussion of a potential property acquisition with Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Tom Seguire and Public Works staff [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.

2. [AB2026-405](#) Discussion with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern on Lummi Nation litigation [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)]

This agenda item was DISCUSSED.

3. [AB2026-406](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern regarding Hailey Bergquist vs. Whatcom County et al., Skagit County Superior Court, Case No. 26-2-00115-29. Defense and indemnification of Ryan Rathbun, former Whatcom County Sheriff's Deputy, named as 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.

4. [AB2026-407](#) Discussion of potential litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern regarding the Public Works Ferry Division's participation in Discover Card Merchant Class Action [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.

Items Added by Revision

There were no agenda items added by revision.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on June 9, 2026.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

SIGNED COPY ON FILE