

Whatcom County Council Committee of the Whole

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

1 PM

Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers

HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 4:30 P.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 Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

Call To Order**Roll Call**

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

Announcements**Special Presentation**

1. [AB2025-534](#) Presentation by Health and Community Services Department and VillageReach on Permanent Supportive Housing Assessment

PRESENTED

2. [AB2025-577](#) Presentation on the draft Whatcom County Land Capacity Analysis for Permanent Housing and Employment Needs Methodology and the draft Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Land Capacity Analysis Methodology for Emergency Housing

PRESENTED

Committee Discussion

1. [AB2025-552](#) Discussion of preliminary Planning Commission recommendations on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 4, Capital Facilities, associated with the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved to restore the original language for Goal 4K so that it reads:

Enable school districts and fire districts to receive mitigation fees or impact fees to fund a proportionate share of system improvements reasonably related to new development by adopting into this plan their capital facilities plans.

Motion approved to amend Policy 4A-2 to add "and facilitates potential city annexation" so that it reads:

Policy 4A-2: Provide County facilities and services in a manner that supports future urban growth in urban growth areas (UGAs) and facilitates potential city annexation.

Motion approved to amend Policy 4F-2 to add tribes and non-profit stakeholders to the list in the second sentence, and to add a new sentence to the end of the policy so that it reads:

Seek non-capital opportunities to acquire, enhance and maintain park lands, trails, and other recreational facilities. Consider partnering with tribes, cities, school districts, park & recreation districts, non-profit stakeholders, and others when planning and implementing park and trail projects. Make a good faith effort to consult with Lummi Nation and Nooksack Indian Tribe on relevant land acquisitions and the development of new trails and other recreational facilities that may have an impact on their cultural resources.

2. [AB2025-601](#) Discussion relating to preliminary Planning Commission recommendations on Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan Chapter 9 (Parks & Recreation) associated with the 2025 Comprehensive Plan Update

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved to amend 9C-28 to add “and incompatible uses that damage the environment” so that it reads: Ensure adequate education and enforcement of County regulations to minimize activities such as illegal trail building, off-leash dogs in on-leash areas, and improper disposal of pet waste, and incompatible uses that damage the environment.

3. [AB2025-509](#) 2025-2026 Mid-Biennium Budget Review

NOT ACTED UPON**Items Added by Revision**

1. [AB2025-620](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive’s appointment of Champ Thomaskutty as Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services Department, effective October 27, 2025

DISCUSSED

2. [AB2025-638](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2025-013 to docket an additional comprehensive plan and zoning amendment related to related to Whatcom County Code Chapter 20.40 to include agriculture storage as a primary permitted use

RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

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

Nay: 0

Other Business**Adjournment**