

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, June 23, 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); AGENDA REVISION 6.22.2026

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

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

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-051](#) Special Council - Lake Whatcom for April 1, 2026
APPROVED BY CONSENT
Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
Nay: 0
2. [MIN2026-053](#) Special Council - Justice Project Community Engagement Workshop for March 19, 2026
APPROVED BY CONSENT
Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
Nay: 0
3. [MIN2026-054](#) Special Committee of the Whole for June 2, 2026
APPROVED BY CONSENT
Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
Nay: 0
4. [MIN2026-055](#) Health Board and Public Health Advisory Board for June 2, 2026
APPROVED BY CONSENT
Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
Nay: 0
5. [MIN2026-056](#) Special Committee of the Whole for June 2, 2026
APPROVED BY CONSENT
Aye: 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2026-403](#) Ordinance imposing an interim moratorium on the acceptance or processing of applications and permits for the establishment of new or expansion of existing civil detention facilities

SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-032

(Public hearings for AB2026-431 and AB2026-475 will be combined into one public hearing)

2. [AB2026-431](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 5.20, Fireworks, to strengthen fireworks regulations by limiting the days fireworks are allowed and prohibiting fireworks during burn bans
3. [AB2026-475](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 5.20, Fireworks, to strengthen fireworks regulations by limiting the days fireworks are allowed and prohibiting fireworks during burn bans

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

2. [AB2026-431](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 5.20, Fireworks, to strengthen fireworks regulations by limiting the days fireworks are allowed and prohibiting fireworks during burn bans

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Galloway

Motion approved to refer to Committee of the Whole for further discussion and study.

3. [AB2026-475](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 5.20, Fireworks, to strengthen fireworks regulations by limiting the days fireworks are allowed and prohibiting fireworks during burn bans

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Galloway

Motion approved to refer to Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2026-345](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation for a radio tower lease, in the amount of \$0

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-449](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the Port of Bellingham to lower the loan principal amount to \$844,961.62, which reflects the actual amount dispersed and results in a total contract amount of \$2,899,813

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-462](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission for a wellness grant, in the amount of \$41,200

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-464](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Transportation for the renewal of youth zero fare policy, in the amount of \$260,250 for a total of \$363,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-466](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement

between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to move forward with the design phase of the Everson Goshen Road and East Smith Road Intersection Improvements project, in the amount of \$300,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-471](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cooperative agreement between Whatcom County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to repair the Bylsma Levee on the Nooksack River, in the amount of \$133,160 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-474](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a cooperative agreement between Whatcom County and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to repair the Ritter Road levee along the left bank of the Nooksack River, in the amount of \$116,100 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2026-477](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to provide basic needs items to families with children ages 0-5 who qualify, in the amount of \$40,131 for a total amended contract amount of \$151,192

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2026-481](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pioneer Human Services to deliver substance use disorder assessments and provide post-assessment treatment coordination as a component of re-entry for individuals released from jail, in the amount of \$101,896

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-482](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Health Care Authority to decrease funding, due to state budget reductions, for the Alternative Response Team (ART) program grant, in the amount of \$176,000, for a total amended agreement amount of \$4,385,000
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
11. [AB2026-483](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Washington Initiative for Supported Employment (WISE) to provide training and consultation to the County and local agencies related to improving employment outcomes and the inclusion of people with developmental disabilities in their communities, in the amount of \$59,500
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
12. [AB2026-484](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement between Whatcom County and the union representing Lummi Island ferry operations workers in the Public Works Department covering 2026 to 2028
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
13. [AB2026-485](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) for funding for employment and community inclusion services for adults with developmental disabilities, child development services for children ages birth to three years, and community information and training, in the amount of \$6,194,426
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2026-442](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the 2015 Girard Street Building Improvement Fund, request no. 1

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-033

2. [AB2026-450](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 9, in the amount of \$7,941,775

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2026-034

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

3. [AB2026-463](#) Resolution approving a one-year extension for the Major Project Permit for the City of Bellingham

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-025

4. [AB2026-472](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2025-025 to update rules of the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner by approving clarifying changes promulgated by the Hearing Examiner

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-026

5. [AB2026-478](#) Resolution authorizing grant application submission and signing authority for Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Farmland Preservation grants for the Steensma, Jensen, and Cloud Mountain Farm Center applications

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-027

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-470](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Cori Bryant to the Veteran's Advisory Board

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-492](#) Request confirmation of the Executive's appointment of Kelly Klem to the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

1. [AB2026-461](#) Ordinance granting Forged Fiber 37, LLC a non-exclusive franchise for the purposes of offering and providing telecommunications services

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

2. [AB2026-488](#) Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan amendments relating to Periodic Update and Urban Growth Area review requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

3. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Code Title 20 development regulation amendments relating to Periodic Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

4. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Zoning Map amendments relating to Periodic

Update requirements under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

5. [AB2026-427](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, childcare position, Applicant(s): Courtney Whitaker, Kristine Wilson (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2026)

INTRODUCED

Aye: 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

REPORT FROM COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

- [AB2026-458](#) Discussion of a potential property acquisition with Senior Deputy Prosecutor Kimberly Thulin 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)]

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion approved 7-0 to authorize the County Executive, acting on behalf of the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District, to move forward with and complete the acquisition of the property as long as the purchase price of the property does not exceed the amount discussed in Executive Session.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES CONTINUED

ADJOURN