

**Whatcom County  
Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee**

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



**Action Summary**

**Tuesday, May 26, 2026**

**11 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 12:30 P.M. (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL 360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISED 5.22.2026**

**COUNCILMEMBERS**

Elizabeth Boyle  
Barry Buchanan  
Ben Elenbaas  
Kaylee Galloway  
Jessica Rienstra  
Jon Scanlon  
Mark Stremler

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## Call To Order

## Roll Call

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

## Announcements

## Council "Consent Agenda" Items

1. [AB2026-368](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and EKS Evaluation Consulting to develop a comprehensive evaluation plan for the five key Response Systems Division programs within Whatcom County Health and Community Services, in the amount of \$83,150

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-381](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Bellingham Police Department for a commitment of funding from the Bellingham Police Department to maintain operations of the Alternative Response Team Program, in the amount of \$688,760

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-382](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Commerce to increase funding for the Consolidated Homeless Grant, which supports the priorities outlined in the Whatcom County Plan to End Homelessness, in the amount of \$1,546,981 for a total amended agreement amount of \$20,366,072

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2026-385](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health to provide funding for various public health programs, in the amount of \$57,008 for a total amended contract amount of \$11,286,805

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-386](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Kulshan Community Land Trust to provide eighteen units of permanently affordable homeownership units for households earning less than 80% Area Median Income, in the amount of \$394,012.06

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-387](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Shea, Carr & Jewell, Inc. dba SCJ Alliance to provide flood mitigation planning for the City of Sumas, in the amount of \$274,981.33 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2026-391](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for the elevation of sixteen structures in flood-prone areas, in the amount of \$4,156,725 (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

A SECOND MOTION WAS MADE ON THIS ITEM UNDER OTHER BUSINESS.

8. [AB2026-392](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Herrera Environmental Consultants to support the next phase of Lower Nooksack River Floodplain Integrated Planning, in the amount of \$1,250,229 for a total contract amount of \$4,248,598 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

9. [AB2026-393](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between

Whatcom County and Lake Whatcom Residential Treatment Center to support the development of 37 units of affordable rentals for adults with behavioral health needs, including 11 units dedicated to Trueblood Class Members, in the amount of \$3,087,940

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

10. [AB2026-394](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an amended agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement of costs related to water adjudication, in the amended amount of \$2,538,200

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

11. [AB2026-397](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department to enhance security and preparedness for the 2026 International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup events, in the amount of \$62,963

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

12. [AB2026-398](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the SeattleFWC26 to enhance security and preparedness for the 2026 International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) World Cup events, in the amount of \$97,556

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

13. [AB2026-401](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham to clarify eligible construction reimbursement methods for the Bear Creek Corridor Mitigation Bank Project in the amount of \$0, for a total amended contract amount of \$1,000,000

**RECOMMENDED FOR AUTHORIZATION BY CONSENT**

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

Nay: 0

### **Special Presentation**

1. [AB2026-399](#) Presentation from the Western Washington University Small Business Development Center regarding its services and economic impacts in Whatcom County

**PRESENTED**

2. [AB2026-400](#) Presentation by the Executive Office on the Economic Development Investment Fund and Program

**PRESENTED**

### **Committee Discussion**

1. [AB2026-346](#) Discussion regarding Council Office budget items for the 2027-2028 Biennial Budget

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

MOTION 1:

Motion approved to request the clerk submit a low 7% and a high 10% reduction in the council budget for the 2027-2028 biennium.

MOTION 2

Motion approved to request the clerk submit the ASR list on the “Staff Memo for 5.26.2026” (on file) for the phase one budget deadline but to maintain the Sheriff’s deputy in the evening (account 6699).

### **Committee Discussion and Recommendation to Council**

1. [AB2026-333](#) Ordinance increasing the Petty Cash Revolving Fund for the Parks and Recreation Department, in the amount of \$500

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-351](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Austin Court Stormwater Improvement Project Fund, request no. 1

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-353](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the North Commercial Street Acquisition, request no. 1

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2026-355](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 11

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-369](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 8, in the amount of \$8,914,924

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-373](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$34,964 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

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

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2026-374](#) Ordinance amending the project based budget for the Lummi Nation Ferry Lease Fund-3901, request no. 1

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2026-379](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Central Shop National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Improvements Project Fund, request no. 2

**RECOMMENDED FOR ADOPTION**

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

**Nay:** 0

9. [AB2026-402](#) Resolution appointing the County Treasurer and Finance Director as the county representatives authorized to designate certain expenditures for reimbursement from future tax-exempt obligations

**RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL**

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

**Nay:** 0

**Items Added by Revision**

1. [AB2026-418](#) Request for motion to support modifying the Flood District Fund reserve policy to allow for levee repairs

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Motion approved to support modifying the Flood District Fund reserve policy to allow for the River Road and Bylsma levee repairs.

**Other Business**

(Item from the Consent Agenda)

7. [AB2026-391](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for the elevation of sixteen structures in flood-prone areas, in the amount of \$4,156,725 (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Motion approved to authorize the Executive to execute agreements with the property owners that outline the terms of reimbursement for the elevation of their structures.

**Adjournment**