

# **Whatcom County Council Planning and Development Committee**

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



## **Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

**11:40 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - MAY BEGIN EARLY/LATE - ADJOURNS BY 12:00 P.M.  
(PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS AT  
[www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://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

Committee member Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 11:49 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Elizabeth Boyle, Barry Buchanan, Ben Elenbaas, Kaylee Galloway, Jessica Rienstra, Jessica Rienstra, Jon Scanlon, and Mark Stremler

## Announcements

## Special Order of Business

1. [AB2026-007](#) Nomination and appointment of Committee Chair

Elenbaas and Rienstra nominated themselves for the position of committee chair and spoke about why.

*Scanlon moved* to nominate Elenbaas and Rienstra with a vote of one.

The motion was seconded by Galloway.

Rienstra was appointed as chair by the following vote:

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

**Elenbaas:** 2 - Elenbaas and Stremler

Rienstra assumed the role of chair for the remainder of the meeting and Councilmembers discussed the appointment of vice chairs.

Boyle withdrew her name from consideration, and Galloway stated she would like to be considered for the position.

*Scanlon moved* to nominate Elenbaas and Galloway for vice chair.

The motion was seconded by Boyle.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

**This agenda item was APPOINTED.**

Appointed Rienstra as Chair and Elenbaas and Galloway as Vice Chairs

**Committee Discussion**

1. [AB2026-017](#) Discussion of an ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Chapter 20.34 Rural Residential Island (RRI) to allow food preparation for off-site consumption when accessory to and located within an approved community center

Lucas Clark, Planning and Development Services Department, briefed the councilmembers and stated the code amendment would allow The Gathering Place to expand the use of its existing kitchen for off-premise food sales outside of the community center.

Councilmembers commented on the proposal and thanked Clark for his work on it.

**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 11:58 a.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

**Jessica Rienstra-via email 1/26/2026**

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Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

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Jessica Rienstra, Committee Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger

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