

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, May 13, 2025

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 REVISED 5.9.2025**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Barry Buchanan
Tyler Byrd
Todd Donovan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

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

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2025-027](#) Committee of the Whole for April 29, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2025-028](#) Regular County Council for April 29, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [MIN2025-029](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for April 29, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [MIN2025-030](#) Special Committee of the Whole for April 22, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-347](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into Amendment No. 1 of the Interagency Agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Health to provide additional funding for the Whatcom County Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program, in the amount of \$1,536,380 for a total amendment amount of \$3,015,374 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-354](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Mobile Mama Strategies, Inc to administer a mental health internship pilot project in the amount of \$133,100, for a total amended contract amount of \$297,335

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-360](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service for reimbursement of overtime patrols, in the amount of \$21,900

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-363](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Siemens Industry, Inc. to provide the 2025 - 2027 Service Agreement for HVAC Service, in the amount of \$120,096 plus applicable Washington State Sales Tax

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2025-364](#) Request approval for the County Executive to authorize the purchase of radios, related installation parts, and programming, using the Washington State Contract #00318, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per calendar year for 2025 and 2026

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-369](#) Request approval for the County Executive to authorize the purchase of a RapidHIT™ ID Sytem, using the Washington State Contract #20722. The vendor is Thermo Fisher Scientific/Life Technologies Corporation, and the total cost for this purchase will not exceed \$210,784.83

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-370](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Bode Technology for DNA training, analysis, and result storage, in the amount of \$70,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Public Works and Health Committee)

1. [AB2025-328](#) Resolution adopting an amendment to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Solid and Hazardous Waste Management Plan

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-018

**CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS,
COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES**

1. [AB2025-350](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Tim Schermetzler to the Whatcom County Development Standards Technical Advisory Committee

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2025-373](#) Request council review and approval of the Economic Development Investment Board's recommendation for funding of the Port of Bellingham's property acquisition for the development of a Washington Agricultural Research Station

APPROVED REQUEST

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

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

1. [AB2025-264](#) Ordinance to amend Whatcom County Code Section 3.08.100, Council approval required, to increase the threshold for contracts that require council approval

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

2. [AB2025-337](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 5, in the amount of \$1,053,510

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-355](#) Ordinance authorizing interfund loans to finance cash flow for county road fund up to \$4 million for a term not to exceed two years

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

4. [AB2025-365](#) Receipt of a report from the 2025 Whatcom County Salary Commission

RECEIVED

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

Nay: 0

INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

1. [AB2025-264](#) Ordinance to amend Whatcom County Code Section 3.08.100, Council approval required, to increase the threshold for contracts that require council approval

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED

Aye: 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler

A substitute ordinance was introduced that would set the threshold at \$75,000

3. [AB2025-355](#) Ordinance authorizing interfund loans to finance cash flow for county road fund up to \$4 million for a term not to exceed two years

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

(From Public Works and Health Committee (AB2025-352))

Motion approved 7-0 that the council affirms the need to increase ferry fares to address solvency issues and ensure that fare box revenues are meeting the required 55% fare box recovery rate per WCC 10.34.03 and pursue other revenue options for the Ferry Fund. Further, the Council encourages the County Executive to increase ferry fares immediately to ensure solvency of the Ferry system annual operations, provided the rate increase is ample enough to meet the goals set forth in the code for fare box recovery and reserve fund contributions.

Motion approved 5-0, with Donovan and Byrd abstaining, to request that the Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee make recommendations to County Council and the County Executive to address the annual gap in funding ferry operations.

Motion approved 6-0, with Donovan out of the meeting, that Councilmembers Elenbaas and Galloway be appointed to represent the Council on the EMS search and interview, etc... process.

ADJOURN