

**Whatcom County  
Council Committee of the Whole-Executive Session**

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



**Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, May 26, 2026  
9:50 AM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING - ADJOURNS BY 10:55 A.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 Stremmer

**CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

### Call To Order

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. in a hybrid meeting.

### Roll Call

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

### Announcements

### Committee Discussion

**Attorneys Present: Tom Seguine, Jesse Corkern, and Kimberly Thulin**

Galloway stated that discussion of agenda item one may take place in executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) for AB2026-383 and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for AB2026-405, AB2026-406, and AB2026-407. Executive session will conclude no later than 10:55 a.m. If the meeting extends beyond the stated conclusion time, the Council chair will make a public announcement.

**Rienstra moved** to go into executive session until no later than 10:55 a.m. to discuss the agenda item(s) pursuant to the RCW citation(s) as announced by the Council Chair. The motion was seconded by Boyle.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

**Nay:** 0

**Out of the Meeting:** 1 - Scanlon

Councilmembers entered executive session at 9:53 a.m.

*Clerk's Note:* Scanlon joined the meeting shortly after the vote.

1. [AB2026-383](#) Discussion of a potential property acquisition with Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Tom Seguine 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)]

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

2. [AB2026-405](#) Discussion with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern on Lummi Nation litigation [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)]

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

3. [AB2026-406](#) Discussion of pending litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern regarding Hailey Bergquist vs. Whatcom County et al., Skagit County Superior Court, Case No. 26-2-00115-29. Defense and indemnification of Ryan Rathbun, former Whatcom County Sheriff's Deputy, named as defendant [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110(1)(i)]

**This agenda item was DISCUSSED.**

4. [AB2026-407](#) Discussion of potential litigation with Civil Deputy Prosecutor Jesse Corkern regarding the Public Works Ferry Division's participation in Discover Card Merchant Class Action [Discussion of this item may take place in executive session (closed to the public) pursuant to RCW42.30.110(1)(i)]

**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 10:55 a.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on June 9, 2026.

ATTEST:

  
Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

  
Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger