

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, March 25, 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)

COUNCILMEMBERS

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

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. [MIN2025-015](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for March 11, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2025-016](#) Committee of the Whole for March 11, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [MIN2025-017](#) Regular County Council for March 11, 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. [AB2025-208](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Puget Sound Partnership to implement a program that supports the health and sustainability of onsite septic systems in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$182,310

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

2. [AB2025-223](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to grant a perpetual easement to Donald and Heather Hall across park property for ingress/egress purposes to a private residence adjacent to Lake Whatcom Park
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
3. [AB2025-230](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and National Services Office for Nurse-Family Partnership for technical support and training in an estimated amount of \$36,650
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
4. [AB2025-236](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Local Agency A&E Agreement between Whatcom County and KPFF, Inc. to provide on-call professional structural engineering support for the Whatcom County bridge program in 2025, in the amount of \$40,000
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
5. [AB2025-237](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Local Agency A&E Agreement between Whatcom County and KPFF Inc., to provide on-call professional mechanical engineering support for the Whatcom County ferry program in 2025, in the amount of \$40,000
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0
6. [AB2025-238](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a Local Agency A&E Agreement between Whatcom County and Sargent Engineers, Inc. to provide on-call professional structural engineering support for the Whatcom County bridge program in 2025, in the amount of \$40,000
- AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**
- Aye:** 7 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler
- Nay:** 0

7. [AB2025-241](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and United States Geological Survey (USGS) to provide additional funding and time to complete technical analyses assessing topographic changes in the Nooksack River channel and support Floodplain Integrated Planning (FLIP) work, in the amount of \$40,000 (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

8. [AB2025-244](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to award Bid #25-09 and enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lake Union Drydock Company for the annual Dockside Repair and Maintenance of the Whatcom Chief Ferry, in the amount of \$601,352

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-247](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Community Attributes Inc (CAI) for the Birch Bay Incorporation Study, in the amount of \$150,000

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

10. [AB2025-249](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and J.A. Brennan Associates PLLC for engineering and design services to develop a Vision Plan for Hovander Park, in the amount of \$265,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

11. [AB2025-252](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Association of Counties to conduct audits for tier 1 and tier 2 buildings in the amount of a \$449,882.29 grant

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

12. [AB2025-253](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Insight Public Sector, using the State of WA contract, to

provide Neogov Learn software and Position and Employee Integrations in the amount of \$126,288.80 through December 31, 2026

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

13. [AB2025-254](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Pacific Power Generation to provide 2025 Generator Preventative Maintenance Service, in the amount of \$57,571.54

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

14. [AB2025-256](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Handel Information Technologies, Inc. (Handel) for the purchase and implementation of case management software to support the Water Adjudication proceeding in the amount of \$54,835.12

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

15. [AB2025-257](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Justice AV Solutions (JAVS) for audio-visual recording system equipment for the new third floor Superior Court courtroom in the amount of \$97,438.09

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

16. [AB2025-259](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and WA State Department of Military for Operation Stonegarden FY2023, in the amount of \$214,500

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

17. [AB2025-260](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Military, in the amount of \$160,875

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

18. [AB2025-261](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center for services relating to Supervised Visitation- \$111,000

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

19. [AB2025-266](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association to expand local childcare capacity and increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$48,947

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

20. [AB2025-267](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Lummi Indian Business Council to increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$282,889

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

21. [AB2025-269](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Center for Early Learning to increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$225,525

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

1. [AB2025-208](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Puget Sound Partnership to implement a program that supports the health and sustainability of onsite septic systems in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$182,310

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Donovan, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Elenbaas

9. [AB2025-247](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Community Attributes Inc (CAI) for the Birch Bay Incorporation Study, in the amount of \$150,000

AUTHORIZED

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

Nay: 2 - Byrd, and Stremler

Abstain: 1 - Galloway

19. [AB2025-266](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association to expand local childcare capacity and increase kindergarten readiness, in the amount of \$48,947

AUTHORIZED

Aye: 5 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Galloway, and Scanlon

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-196](#) Ordinance temporarily amending the funding limit of cash flow loans from the Road Fund to North Lake Samish Bridge No. 107 Replacement Fund -3905 from \$2,000,000 up to \$6,656,262.32 for a term not to exceed two years

ADOPTED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Donovan, Elenbaas, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Galloway

Enactment No: ORD 2025-014

2. [AB2025-211](#) Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center Sports Court

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-015

3. [AB2025-212](#) Ordinance authorizing an interfund loan for the construction of the East Whatcom Regional Resource Center Sports Court

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-016

4. [AB2025-213](#) Ordinance establishing a project-based budget for the Silver Lake Boat Launch at Silver Lake Park

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-017

5. [AB2025-220](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 3, in the amount of \$1,485,889

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-018

6. [AB2025-240](#) Resolution updating the appendix of the 2022 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

APPROVED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2025-012

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

7. [AB2025-194](#) Resolution docketing Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulation amendments

SUBSTITUTE APPROVED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1 - Donovan

Enactment No: RES 2025-013

(From Council Committee of the Whole)

8. [AB2025-221](#) Discussion and motion relating to draft Countywide Planning Policy amendments

HELD IN COMMITTEE

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

Nay: 0

Held in Committee till the April 15 meeting

9. [AB2025-273](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Charlene Ramont as Interim Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services effective March 25, 2025

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to confirm the County Executive's appointment of Charlene Ramont as Interim Director of Whatcom County Health & Community Services and as Administrative Director as defined in Whatcom County Code 24.01 effective March 25, 2025

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. [AB2025-218](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Agriculture representative, Applicant(s): Rich Appel

APPOINTED

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

Nay: 0

CONFIRMATION OF EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. [AB2025-227](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Payden Waldo to the Whatcom County Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-270](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Jerry Marczyński to the Whatcom County Parks and Recreation Commission

CONFIRMED

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

Nay: 0

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION**INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

1. [AB2025-185](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Forest Advisory Committee, commercial forest landowner position, Applicant(s): Robert Janicki

INTRODUCED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

2. [AB2025-231](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Section 1.14, Electoral Precincts, with newly established voting precinct boundaries for Whatcom County

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

3. [AB2025-234](#) Resolution to declare Whatcom County real property as surplus and approve transfer

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

4. [AB2025-246](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Title 20 (Zoning) regarding home-based businesses

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

5. [AB2025-250](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Surface Mining Advisory Committee, Geologist position, Applicant(s): John Byers

INTRODUCED

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

- 6. [AB2025-255](#) Resolution to sell county tax title property by negotiation

INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

- 7. [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

INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

- 7. [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

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

Aye: 6 - Buchanan, Byrd, Elenbaas, Galloway, Scanlon, and Stremler

Nay: 0

Temp Absent: 1 - Donovan

Referred to Committee of the Whole (with no date set)

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

ADJOURN