

Whatcom County Council

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



Action Summary

Tuesday, July 22, 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. [MIN2025-041](#) Special Committee of the Whole for June 3, 2025

APPROVED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. [AB2025-482](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code section 10.04.095 to establish 20 mph school speed zones on Bennett Drive and Alderwood Avenue for Alderwood Elementary School

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-035

OPEN SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-511](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Tacoma Pierce County Health Department to support the Provider Resources Website as a shared service between local health jurisdictions, in the amount of \$0

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2025-519](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Lookout Mountain Holdings LLC to extend the performance period of the radio tower lease for an additional five years at a cost of \$57,084.73, for a total amended contract amount of \$111,084.73

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2025-520](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and Akin for services related to the Parents for Parents (P4P) program, in the amount of \$112,757

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2025-521](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and RE Sources to improve and expand the commercial recycling infrastructure in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$92,059

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW

5. [AB2025-522](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and San Juan Cruises to provide temporary passenger ferry service to and from Lummi Island during the 2026 dry dock period, in the amount of \$118,809.60

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2025-523](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and the Mount Baker School District to extend the performance period of a radio tower lease for an additional five years at a cost of \$0, for a total amended contract amount of \$0

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2025-525](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Agreement

between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Transportation, for the Whatcom County Ferry with a Youth Zero Fare Policy, in the amount of \$68,500

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2025-526](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an Interlocal Agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Transportation, renewing the operating deficit agreement for the Whatcom County Ferry

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2025-527](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to provide resources to fund homelessness crisis response systems, in the amount of \$18,819,091

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2025-528](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Services Organization to provide behavioral health services within the North Sound Integrated Care Network in the amount of \$469,534, for a total amended contract amount of \$3,494,669

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

11. [AB2025-530](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Blaine Birch Bay Park and Recreation District No. 2 for usage of the gymnasium at Bay Horizon Park for recreational programming

AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT

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

Nay: 0

CONSENT AGENDA CONSIDERED SEPARATELY

4. [AB2025-521](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between

Whatcom County and RE Sources to improve and expand the commercial recycling infrastructure in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$92,059

AUTHORIZED

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

OTHER ITEMS

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

1. [AB2025-488](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Birch Bay-Lynden Road and Blaine Road Intersection Improvements Fund; CRP #906001, request no. 1

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-036

2. [AB2025-492](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the E. Smith/Hannegan Road Intersection Improvements Fund, request no. 4

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-037

3. [AB2025-494](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Fund, request no. 1

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-038

4. [AB2025-498](#) Ordinance amending the project budget for the New Public Health, Safety and Justice Facility, request no. 8

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: ORD 2025-039

5. [AB2025-502](#) Ordinance amending the 2025 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 8, in the amount of \$3,548,146

ADOPTED

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

Nay: 3 - Byrd, Elenbaas, and Stremler

Enactment No: ORD 2025-040

(From Council Planning and Development Committee)

6. [AB2025-539](#) Resolution amending Resolution 2024-021 to update Business Rules of the Whatcom County Hearing Examiner to approve clarifying changes promulgated by the Hearing Examiner

HELD IN COUNCIL

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold the substitute resolution (in Council) until September 9 for a public hearing.

(No Committee Assignment)

7. [AB2025-507](#) Receipt of the Whatcom County Charter Review Commission's proposed amendments to Whatcom County voters and submittal to the Auditor

DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED

Motion carried 7-0 to approve receiving and submitting to the Auditor the Charter Review Amendments as described in AB2025-507.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

1. [AB2025-515](#) Appointment of pro and con committees to write statements for the local voters' pamphlet on charter amendments proposed by the Whatcom County Charter Review Commission

APPOINTED

SEE VOTING SHEET ATTACHED TO THE ACTION SUMMARY

Motion approved 5-1, with Stremler opposed and Elenbaas abstaining, to accept late applications.

PROPOSITION 1: The Council appointed Andrew Reding, Lindsey Elenbaas, and Hannah Ordos to the pro statement committee and Jon Mutchler to the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 2: The Council appointed Brian Estes, Colton Kaltenfeldt, and JG Sandy Phillips to the pro statement committee and Lindsey Elenbaas, Ashley Butenschoen, and Hannah Ordos to the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 3: The Council appointed Colton Kaltenfeldt, Joel Pitts-Jordan, and Jessica Rienstra to the pro statement committee and there were no applicants for the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 4: The Council appointed Lane Davis Coury to the pro statement committee and there were no applicants for the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 5: The Council appointed Lane Davis Coury, Joel Pitts-Jordan, and Eamonn Collins to the pro statement committee and there were no applicants for the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 6: The Council appointed Greg Thames to the pro statement committee and Andrew Reding to the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 7: The Council appointed JG Sandy Phillips, Lindsey Elenbaas, Ashley Butenschoen to the pro statement committee and Ray Deck III, Anne Marie Faiola, and Emily O'Connor to the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 8: The Council appointed Joel Pitts-Jordan, Lindsey Elenbaas, and Eamonn Collins to the pro statement committee and there were no applicants for the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 9: The Council appointed Joel Pitts-Jordan, Lindsey Elenbaas, and Hannah Ordos to the pro statement committee and there were no applicants for the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 10: The Council appointed Jon Mutchler, Greg Thames, and Lane Davis Coury to the pro statement committee and there were no applicants for the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 11: The Council appointed JG Sandy Phillips to the pro statement committee and Ashley Butenschoen and Hannah Ordos to the con statement committee.

PROPOSITION 12: The Council appointed Brian Estes, Lindsey Elenbaas, and R. Perry Eskridge to the pro statement committee and there were no applicants for the con statement committee.

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

1. [AB2025-537](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Title 22 to clarify the roles and duties of participants in the Hearing Examiner process

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to introduce the substitute ordinance and schedule the item for a public hearing on September 9th.

2. [AB2025-538](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 2.11 to clarify the authority of the Hearing Examiner

SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to introduce the substitute ordinance and schedule the item for a public hearing on September 9th.

3. [AB2025-518](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Forest Advisory Committee, position for a forest product manufacturer representing a sawmill that receives wood from Whatcom County, Applicant(s): Adam Ellsworth

INTRODUCED

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

Nay: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

Motion approved 7-0 to request that the Incarceration Prevention and Reduction Task Force provide Council with recommendations to inform both short- and long-term decisions about jail capacity, diversion, and system investments

ADJOURN

Proposition 1
AUTHORIZING COUNCILMEMBERS TO HIRE DEDICATED AIDES

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremier	Total
Andrew Reding	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
JG Sandy Phillips				Abstain				0
Lindsey Elenbaas	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Ashley Butenschoen				Abstain			X	1
Hannah Ordos	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X		5

CON COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 1

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremier	Total
Jon Mutchler	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6

Proposition 2
ESTABLISHING A WHATCOM COUNTY OFFICE OF THE OMBUDS

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Brian Estes	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X		5
Colton Kaltenfeldt	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Greg Thames				Abstain				0
JG Sandy Phillips	X	X		Abstain	X		X	4
Lane Davis Coury			X	Abstain		X	X	3

CON COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Lindsey Elenbaas	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Ashley Butenschoen	X			Abstain	X	X	X	4
Hannah Ordos	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6

**Proposition 3
ESTABLISHING PERFORMANCE AUDITS**

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremier	Total
Brian Estes				Abstain				0
Colton Kaltenfeldt	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Greg Thames				Abstain				0
JG Sandy Phillips				Abstain				0
Lane Davis Coury				Abstain				0
Joel Pitts-Jordan	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Jessica Rienstra	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6

CON COMMITTEE - no applicants

Proposition 4
CLARIFYING THE POWER AND DUTIES OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 2

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Greg Thames				Abstain				0
Lane Davis Coury	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6

CON COMMITTEE - no applicants

**Proposition 5
MODIFYING THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS**

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Lane Davis Coury	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
Joel Pitts-Jordan	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
Eamonn Collins	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6

CON COMMITTEE - no applicants

Proposition 6

ADJUSTING THE CALCULATION OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR A REFERENDUM

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 1

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Greg Thames	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6

CON COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 1

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Andrew Reding	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6

Proposition 7

PROHIBITING COUNTY GOVERNMENT FROM INTERFERING WITH INITIATIVES AND CHARTER AMENDMENTS

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Greg Thames								0
JG Sandy Phillips	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Lindsey Elenbaas	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Ashley Butenschoen	X			Abstain	X	X	X	4

CON COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

(late applicants)	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Chao ying Wu	X			Abstain				1
Ray Deck III	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X		5
Cleveland Harris II				Abstain			X	1

AnneMarie Faiola	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Emily O'Connor		X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	5

**Proposition 8
MODIFYING THE BUDGET PROCESS**

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
JG Sandy Phillips		X		Abstain				1
Joel Pitts-Jordan	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Lindsey Elenbaas	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Eamonn Collins	X		X	Abstain	X	X	X	5

CON COMMITTEE - no applicants

Proposition 9
ADDING ACCOUNTABILITY TO FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 3

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Brian Estes	X		X	Abstain	X			3
Joel Pitts-Jordan	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6
Lindsey Elenbaas	X	X		Abstain	X	X	X	5
Hannah Ordos		X	X	Abstain		X	X	4

CON COMMITTEE - no applicants

Proposition 10

DETERMINING INITIAL RULES FOR THE CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETINGS

PRO COMMITTEE - **CHOOSE 3**

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremier	Total
Jon Mutchler	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
Greg Thames	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6
Lane Davis Coury	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6

CON COMMITTEE - no applicants

Proposition 11
ADJUSTING THE CALCULATION OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR A CHARTER
AMENDMENT

PRO COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 2

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Greg Thames								
JG Sandy Phillips	Yes	Yes	Yes	Abstain	Yes	Yes	Yes	6

CON COMMITTEE - CHOOSE 2

	Barry Buchanan	Tyler Byrd	Todd Donovan	Ben Elenbaas	Kaylee Galloway	Jon Scanlon	Mark Stremler	Total
Ashley Butenschoen	X		X	Abstain	X	X	X	5
Hannah Ordos	X	X	X	Abstain	X	X	X	6

