

Whatcom County Council

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



Minutes - Draft Minutes

**Tuesday, July 14, 2026
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 REVISION 7.14.2026**

COUNCILMEMBERS

Elizabeth Boyle
Barry Buchanan
Ben Elenbaas
Kaylee Galloway
Jessica Rienstra
Jon Scanlon
Mark Stremmler

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

COUNTY COUNCIL

CALL TO ORDER

Council Chair Kaylee Galloway called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. in a hybrid meeting.

ROLL CALL

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

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

There was no report.

MINUTES CONSENT

Scanlon moved to accept the minutes consent items. The motion was seconded by Boyle (see votes on individual items below).

1. [MIN2026-057](#) Regular County Council for June 9, 2026

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [MIN2026-058](#) Committee of the Whole for June 9, 2026

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [MIN2026-059](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for June 23, 2026

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

4. [MIN2026-060](#) Committee of the Whole for June 23, 2026

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

5. [MIN2026-061](#) Regular County Council for June 23, 2026

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

6. [MIN2026-062](#) Special Committee of the Whole for June 16, 2026

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

7. [MIN2026-063](#) Special Council for June 30, 2026

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Minutes Consent be APPROVED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

PUBLIC HEARINGS (COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE)

DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC HEARING

1. [AB2026-488](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated the public hearings regarding the Comprehensive Plan will be combined into one hearing and she read all three items into the record. She stated each ordinance is listed as a revised substitute version so that is what they will be discussing this evening. She stated she would like to flag that Council recently became aware of a request to amend the Sumas UGA. Should council wish to accommodate this amendment, AB2026-553 has been added to this agenda for potential introduction later this evening (See **AB2026-553** under Items Added by Revision). She stated they still plan to hold the public hearing this evening on AB2026-488, AB2026-489, and

AB2026-490, and should it be the will of Council to introduce the Sumas UGA changes, Council will hold a public hearing on AB2026-553 on July 28th.

Galloway opened the combined Public Hearing and the following people spoke:

- Steve Harrell
- James Gebhardt
- Lance Calloway
- Tamara Lienhart
- Karl de Jong
- Derek Gremban
- Kaia Hayes
- Lyle Sorenson
- Kelli Baker
- Julie Carney
- Bill Geyer
- Doug Revelle "Yoshe"
- Ryan Bowman
- Brian Gass
- Dwayne Engelsman
- Chris Behee
- Aaron Sturgeon
- Brian Heinrich
- Tina Erwin
- Guy Occhiogrosso
- Perry Eskridge
- Darrell Deewayne Price Jr.
- Barbara Chase
- Lisa Guthrie

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the combined Public Hearing. Councilmembers then discussed each of the items separately below under the "SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS" header.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY WAS RECEIVED.

SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-488

2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

The notes for the public hearing on this item are under AB2026-488 above.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY WAS RECEIVED.

SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-488

3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

The notes for the public hearing on this item are under AB2026-488 above.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY WAS RECEIVED.

SEE HEARING AND DISCUSSION NOTES UNDER AB2026-488

SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

1. [AB2026-488](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated **AB2026-553**, showing substantive changes related to the Sumas urban growth area (UGA) proposal (based on feedback they received from the City of Sumas), has been added to the agenda for introduction this evening. If Council's will is to consider this amendment to the Sumas UGA, they would not need to take any action on this agenda bill file (AB2026-488). It would effectively sunset and the new agenda bill file would be the one that they would schedule for a public hearing and consideration on July 28.

Councilmembers thanked everyone who participated in the process and they gave their perspective on the ordinance, the change requested by the City of Sumas, that there was significant communication with the Birch Bay community, that the councilmembers are on the same page for outcomes that they would like to see but have a difference of opinion on how they get there, the feeling that they did not do enough to increase the supply of housing across the board (and especially affordable housing) or make things clearer and easier in the permitting process, that they have added to the layers of oversight and regulation instead of taking some of them away, that they followed procedurally the processes that were set before them for this

ordinance, that they facilitated a robust and community-driven policy process, that they will have an opportunity in two weeks to hold another public hearing on the updated version, and appreciation for the work of the Planning Commission.

Galloway stated they would proceed with no action on this file and they will see it again in two weeks in its revised format.

Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director, answered if there was a chance they could still add the Birch Bay parcels and spoke about what might be included in the already-docketed UGA reserve study. He answered if Council could make those changes before the next 10-year update and spoke about parcels in the Birch Bay UGA that Council has already identified to be included in the reserve study.

Scanlon stated the other thing they put into that UGA reserve study was to look at industrial land.

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

Note: AB2026-553 showing substantive changes related to Sumas UGA is on for introduction later in this agenda. If a motion to introduce passes, a public hearing will be scheduled for 7/28/2026.

2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated they would be considering a revised substitute ordinance and she read the item into the record. She stated because these need to be reviewed and acted upon in concurrence with the Comprehensive Plan ordinance, they will need to hold this item and schedule a public hearing and concurrent review for July 28th, 2026, alongside what will be the new AB file **AB2026-553**.

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be HELD IN COUNCIL.

Kimberly Thulin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, answered whether the next public hearing would just be on the change in the Sumas UGA or whether it would be opening all of it up again, and stated it is probably best practice and cleanest for the public to just have another public hearing but notify the public what they are looking at and the reason for this delay (the City of Sumas' request for a modification).

Scanlon's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be HELD IN

COUNCIL carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold (and schedule a public hearing and concurrent review on July 28, 2026 alongside AB2026-553 and AB2026-490).

3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway read the item into the record and stated she would entertain a motion to hold and schedule a public hearing and concurrent review on July 28th, 2026, alongside **AB2026-553** and **AB2026-489**.

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be HELD IN COUNCIL.

Mark Personius, Planning and Development Services Department Director, answered what the process might look like for including industrial lands in the docketed zoning study, and he answered questions.

Scanlon's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be HELD IN COUNCIL carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Motion approved 7-0 to hold (and schedule a public hearing and concurrent review on July 28, 2026 alongside AB2026-553 and AB2026-489).

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PERIODIC UPDATE - CONCURRENT REVIEW

1. [AB2026-488](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

2. [AB2026-489](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to Whatcom County Code Title 20, Zoning, under the 2025-2026 periodic update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations, pursuant to the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

3. [AB2026-490](#) Ordinance amending the official Whatcom County Zoning Map under the 2025-2026 Periodic Update of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

This agenda item was NOT ACTED UPON.

OPEN SESSION

The following people spoke:

- Bob VanWeerdhuizen

Clerk's note: Satpal Sidhu, County Executive, responded to the speaker's comments about his farm land and stated he is familiar with his issue and will write a letter to the Council so maybe the Council can take some action.

- Jeremy Korthuis
- John Westerfield
- Daniel Harm
- Lyle Sorenson
- Samuel Holbrook
- Courtney Whitaker
- Ryan Bowman
- Brian Gass
- Dwayne Engelsman (regarding submitting a development agreement in Birch Bay)

Clerk's note: Kimberly Thulin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, made a point of order and stated it appears that these public comments are related to a type four development agreement which is something that is submitted to the Planning and Development Services (PDS) Department and goes to the hearing examiner, and then goes on appeal to Council if it were to be appealed following that. She stated it is something that is usually submitted to PDS. In terms of further comments on this, Council needs to abstain because, if it does come on appeal, it would up to Council to made a decision in a quasi-judicial capacity. So, it would be inappropriate to have further conversations about this matter since this has been submitted to the County.

Open Session continued and the following people spoke:

- Michael Truett
- Markis Dee Stidham
- Natalie Chavez
- Reid Barton

Hearing no one else, Galloway closed the Open Session.

CONSENT AGENDA

(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** to approve Consent Agenda items one through 18.

Councilmembers voted on those items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2026-438](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham Police Department to maintain munitions inventory at the Whatcom County Central Shop, in the amount of \$0

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

2. [AB2026-496](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Status Electrical Corporation to provide technical support for the security electronics at the juvenile detention facility, main jail, jail work center, and facilities management, in the amount of \$69,442 for a total amended contract amount of \$253,615

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

3. [AB2026-500](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Military Department for reimbursement of expenses resulting from the winter weather in December 2025, in an amount to be determined

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion

carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

4. [AB2026-503](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and WA Department of Ecology to restore Olympia oysters in North Chuckanut Bay, in the amount of \$50,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

5. [AB2026-505](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal cooperative purchasing agreement with the Whatcom County Rural Library District (WCLS) to allow reciprocal utilization of competitively bid contracts, pursuant to RCW Chapter 39.34 Interlocal Cooperation Act

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

6. [AB2026-511](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Commerce to increase funding for flood mitigation planning in Sumas, Nooksack, and Everson, in the amount of \$207,400 for a total amended amount of \$1,517,400 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

7. [AB2026-527](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Ecology to provide Floodplains by Design funding to build upon existing Floodplain Integrated Planning efforts to reduce flood hazard, increase flood resiliency, and improve habitat, in the amount of \$10,000,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom

County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

8. [AB2026-528](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the University of Washington for completion of Phase 2 sediment work near Everson and evaluating alternatives proposed as part of the Widen the Corridor project, in the amount of \$209,814 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

9. [AB2026-529](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and United States Geological Survey (USGS) for the continued purpose of sediment modeling on the lower Nooksack River, in the amount of \$60,000 for a total agreement amount of \$295,050 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract (FCZDBS) be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

10. [AB2026-533](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Washington State Office of Public Defense regarding Chapter 10.101 RCW, Indigent Defense Services, in the amount of \$435,995

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

11. [AB2026-536](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between

Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursements of costs related to the Uniform Guardianship Act, in the amount of \$89,144

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

12. [AB2026-537](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursements of costs related to the Family and Juvenile Court Improvement Program, in the amount of \$122,250

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

13. [AB2026-538](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service for funding for a deputy to patrol Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest lands in the amount of \$56,760

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

14. [AB2026-539](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an agreement between Whatcom County and the Administrative Office of the Courts for reimbursement of costs related to BECCA programs, in the amount of \$232,776

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

15. [AB2026-540](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Mobile Mama Strategies Inc. to provide perinatal

mental health services to vulnerable families through continuation of a mental health workforce pilot project, in the amount of \$199,000 for a total amended contract amount of \$496,335

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

16. [AB2026-541](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement amendment between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to increase funding for the 2025-2027 Consolidated Contract Grant, which supports the delivery and funding of various public health services in Whatcom County, in the amount of \$3,521,984 for a total amended agreement amount of \$14,856,181

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

17. [AB2026-542](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center to provide conflict resolution workshops for youth, in the amount of \$35,000

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Contract be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

18. [AB2026-543](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Military for Operation Stonegarden FY25, in the amount of \$170,625

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and moved that the Interlocal be AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

OTHER ITEMS**(From Council Finance and Administrative Services Committee)**

1. [AB2026-480](#) Resolution requiring additional public notice of proposed Whatcom County Council action to increase taxes

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be APPROVED.

Stremmler spoke about the resolution and why he proposed it and councilmembers discussed the motion.

Scanlon's motion that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution be APPROVED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-028

2. [AB2026-514](#) Resolution regarding authorization for application to Public Works Board funding for the Lummi Island Ferry Replacement and System Modernization Project

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and ***moved*** that the Resolution be APPROVED.

Scanlon stated the Public Works Department is working on a replacement boat for the Lummi Island ferry, and this (if it were to be approved by the state) is a lower cost financing option for us compared to bonding or other mechanisms. It could save the County \$4 million over the course of the financing option.

Scanlon's motion that the Resolution be APPROVED carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

Enactment No: RES 2026-029

3. [AB2026-544](#) Resolution designating the revenue distribution from forest service payments

Scanlon reported for the Finance and Administrative Services Committee and stated that they received an email from the deputy executive letting Council know that these funds are tied to matching on an existing federal contract. The suggestion from the Executive's Office would be for the Council to potentially take no action.

Scanlon moved the recommended motion from committee that the Resolution be APPROVED.

Elenbaas moved and Buchanan seconded that the Resolution be TABLED.

The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 0

COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS

1. [AB2026-427](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, childcare position, Applicant(s): Courtney Whitaker, Kristine Wilson

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded to appoint with a vote of one.

Councilmembers spoke about the applicants and Courtney Whitaker was appointed with five votes as follows:

Boyle: Whitaker

Buchanan: Whitaker

Elenbaas: Whitaker

Galloway: Wilson

Rienstra: Whitaker

Scanlon: Whitaker

Stremmer: Wilson

This agenda item was APPOINTED.

Appointed Courtney Whitaker with five votes

ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION

1. [AB2026-552](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.7 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon moved and Boyle seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmer

2. [AB2026-553](#) Ordinance adopting amendments to the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan and Foothills Subarea Plan for the Growth Management Act Periodic Review and Update (for concurrent review with other Comprehensive Plan amendment proposals)

Galloway stated this item was added today (July 14, 2026) for introduction. This includes **AB2026-488** with changes to the Sumas Urban Growth Area. This would be a motion to introduce and schedule a public hearing for July 28th and make it a combined public hearing with **AB2026-489** and **AB2026-490** for concurrent review.

Rienstra moved and Scanlon seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council, answered if this ordinance would be considered a revised substitute (for AB2026-488), and stated this is a new file and is not a substitute. However, it is the same documentation that is included in AB2026-488 with the Sumas urban growth area revisions that councilmembers discussed in committee today.

Galloway stated there is a proposed ordinance attached as well as the “Proposed Ordinance showing changes from AB2026-488 Substitute Ordinance as Introduced 6.23.2026.”

Councilmembers discussed the motion and the changes that were made.

Rienstra's motion that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Motion approved to introduce and schedule a public hearing for July 28th and make it a combined public hearing with AB2026-489 and AB2026-490 for concurrent review.

INTRODUCTION ITEMS

Galloway stated that introduction item numbers 5, 6, and 9 are substitute versions.

Scanlon moved to introduce items one through 11. The motion was seconded by Rienstra.

Councilmembers discussed Introduction item number 1 (AB2026-504) with the following people:

- Cathy Halka, Clerk of the Council
- Kimberly Thulin, Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Kayla Schott-Bresler, Executive's Office
- Tom Kunesh, Health and Community Services

They discussed scheduling it for the Public Works and Health Committee, that this was a discussion that came up at the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee meeting with some frustration from the business community, whether it should be enacted by the Council acting as the Health Board or the Council since it is an ordinance that changes County health code, that this file can be introduced in the meantime but that it would need to be introduced again under a new agenda bill number if it has to be an enactment by the Council, and that there are no time constraints on its adoption.

Councilmembers voted on all of the introduction items (see votes on individual items below).

1. [AB2026-504](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 24.03, Food Service Rules and Regulations (Council acting as the Health Board)

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

2. [AB2026-508](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 4, in the amount of \$34,830 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Resolution (FCZDBS) be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

3. [AB2026-518](#) Ordinance declaring public necessity for and the authorization to acquire certain property rights by eminent domain for the Birch Bay Lynden Road and Blaine Road Intersection Improvements Project

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

4. [AB2026-520](#) Resolution establishing a new Whatcom County Ferry District Fund (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

5. [AB2026-521](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$5.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

6. [AB2026-522](#) Resolution establishing an initial budget level for the Whatcom County Ferry District in the amount of \$4.2 million (Council acting as the Whatcom County Ferry District Board of Supervisors)

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the SUBSTITUTE Resolution Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

7. [AB2026-524](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.34, Ferry Rates

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

8. [AB2026-525](#) Ordinance adding the Ferry District Funds and Board of Supervisors to Whatcom County Code 10.36.060, Ferry Multi-Ride Cards and Quarterly Passes, Replacement Appeal Procedure

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance Requiring a Public Hearing be INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

9. [AB2026-526](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code 16.20, Whatcom County Shellfish Protection Districts

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the SUBSTITUTE Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

10. [AB2026-530](#) Ordinance closing the Central Plaza Tenant Improvement Fund

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

11. [AB2026-534](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 10, in the amount of \$252,250

Scanlon moved and Rienstra seconded that the Ordinance be INTRODUCED. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Nay: 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES

Councilmembers gave committee reports and updates on recent activities and upcoming events.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

Cathy Halka, Council Clerk

Kaylee Galloway, Council Chair

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristi Felbinger