

# **Whatcom County Council**

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



## **Action Summary**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026  
6 PM**

**Hybrid Meeting - Council Chambers**

**HYBRID MEETING (PARTICIPATE IN-PERSON, SEE REMOTE JOIN  
INSTRUCTIONS AT [www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/joinvirtualcouncil), OR CALL  
360.778.5010); AGENDA REVISION 4.13.2026**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

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

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

Cathy Halka, AICP, CMC

## COUNTY COUNCIL

### CALL TO ORDER

### 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

### MINUTES CONSENT

1. [MIN2026-027](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for March 17, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [MIN2026-028](#) Council (Special) for March 17, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [MIN2026-029](#) Special Committee of the Whole for March 17, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [MIN2026-030](#) Committee of the Whole Executive Session for March 24, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [MIN2026-031](#) Committee of the Whole for March 24, 2026

**APPROVED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [MIN2026-032](#) Regular County Council for March 24, 2026  
**APPROVED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0
7. [MIN2026-033](#) Special Council for March 31, 2026  
**APPROVED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0
8. [MIN2026-034](#) Special Committee of the Whole for March 31, 2026  
**APPROVED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0
9. [MIN2026-035](#) Health Board for March 31, 2026  
**APPROVED BY CONSENT**  
**Aye:** 7 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, Scanlon, and Stremler  
**Nay:** 0

### **COMBINED PUBLIC HEARINGS ON TAX ORDINANCES**

1. [AB2026-213](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code  
**PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final)**
2. [AB2026-255](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code  
**PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final)**  
Enactment No: ORD 2026-020
3. [AB2026-259](#) Ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a proposition authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for criminal justice purposes, as authorized by RCW 82.14.345  
**PUBLIC TESTIMONY RECEIVED (file not final)**

### **SEPARATE CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS**

1. [AB2026-213](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal

justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code

**DISCUSSED AND MOTION(S) APPROVED**

Motion approved 7-0 that they hold AB2026-213 until after consideration of AB2026-255 (see second vote on this item below).

2. [AB2026-255](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code

**ADOPTED**

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

**Nay:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

Enactment No: ORD 2026-020

3. [AB2026-259](#) Ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a proposition authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent (0.1%) for criminal justice purposes, as authorized by RCW 82.14.345

**FAILED**

**Aye:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremmler

**Nay:** 5 - Boyle, Buchanan, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

1. [AB2026-213](#) Ordinance authorizing a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345 and adding a new Chapter 3.27 Sales and Use Tax for Criminal Justice Purposes to the Whatcom County Code

**FAILED**

**Aye:** 0

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

**OPEN SESSION**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. [AB2026-253](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and BEA Environmental, LLC to develop and implement a Source Control Business Inspection Program, in the amount of \$89,950

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-256](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract amendment between Whatcom County and Bellingham Food Bank to purchase and distribute diapers, wipes, infant formula, and food to low-income families with children in the amount of \$636,305, for a total amended contract amount of \$1,503,993

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-260](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and Washington State Department of Ecology to administer and enforce the well sealing, tagging, and decommissioning portions of the water well construction regulations, in the estimated amount of \$13,500 annually

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2026-269](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and Opportunity Council to administer rental assistance to eligible individuals who are involved in the criminal legal system and in recovery from a substance use disorder, in the amount of \$79,090

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-270](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into a contract between Whatcom County and the Housing Authority of the City of Bellingham to fund capital expenses for the development of the Samish Commons Early Learning Center, in the amount of \$851,350

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-277](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal grant agreement between Whatcom County and the Department of Ecology to provide funding to advance the planning work necessary to evaluate and implement flood mitigation alternatives for the Lower Nooksack River and the Everson-Sumas overflow corridor, in the amount of \$2,738,000 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2026-294](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and the Washington State Department of Transportation to execute a Federal Aid Project Prospectus to obligate federal Ferry Boat Program funds for the Lummi Island Ferry operating costs, in the amount of \$1,920,916

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

8. [AB2026-299](#) Request authorization for the County Executive to enter into an interlocal agreement between Whatcom County and City of Bellingham for U.S. Department of Justice Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant FY25, in the amount of \$11,812

**AUTHORIZED BY CONSENT**

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

**Nay:** 0

**OTHER ITEMS****(From Council Committee of the Whole)**

1. [AB2026-302](#) Request confirmation of the County Executive's appointment of Deborah Arthur as Deputy Executive/Administrative Services Director effective April 13, 2026

**CONFIRMED**

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

**Nay:** 0

**(No Committee Assignment)**

2. [AB2026-257](#) Resolution setting priorities for a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes as authorized by RCW 82.14.345

**NOT ACTED UPON**

3. [AB2026-309](#) Request for motion to select up to two councilmembers to participate in the Executive's medical examiner hiring process

**APPOINTED**

Appointed Elenbaas and Scanlon 7-0.

**COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS**

1. [AB2026-178](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee, Behavioral Health Provider position, Applicant(s): Keren Gott, Margery Dunkle, Jennifer Zander, Ajreea Johnson

**APPOINTED**

Appointed Keren Gott with 6 votes.

2. [AB2026-221](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Justice Project Oversight and Planning (JPOP) Committee, criminal legal system user, applicant(s): Cesar Luna

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-232](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Planning Commission, District 4 or 5, Applicants: Lindsey Elenbaas, Gurdeep Bains, Jeremy Thompson

**APPOINTED**

Appointed Jeremy Thompson with 4 votes

4. [AB2026-235](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee, alternate member, Applicant(s): Brett Vande Hoef (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-258](#) Appointment to a vacancy on the Lynden/Everson Flood Control Subzone Advisory Committee, Applicant(s): Brett Vande Hoef (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-274](#) Appointment to a vacancy on Consolidated Drainage Improvement District 31 Board of Supervisors, Applicant(s): Glen Oostema

**APPOINTED**

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

**Nay:** 0

**ITEMS ADDED BY REVISION****INTRODUCTION ITEMS**

1. [AB2026-209](#) Ordinance amending the 2026 Whatcom County Budget, request no. 7, in the amount of \$23,290,457

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

2. [AB2026-275](#) Receipt of applications to vacancies on the Whatcom County Ferry Advisory Committee, various positions, Applicant(s) Markis Dee Stidham, Corey Williams, Virgil Thompson, and Jonathan King (Deadline for applications is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

3. [AB2026-281](#) Ordinance adopting Whatcom County Code Chapter 16.38 Source Control of Existing Development to require the use of best management practices for stormwater pollution prevention within the Whatcom County Washington Phase II Municipal Stormwater Permit Area

**SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**Nay:** 0

4. [AB2026-282](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property, a single-family house, as surplus and approve sale (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**Nay:** 0

5. [AB2026-284](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property as surplus and approve sale (Council acting as Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**Nay:** 0

6. [AB2026-286](#) Resolution declaring Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District personal property as surplus and to approve sale (Council acting as the Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**INTRODUCED FOR PUBLIC HEARING**

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

**Nay:** 0

7. [AB2026-288](#) Ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a nonbinding advisory proposition concerning a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

8. [AB2026-291](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.04.080 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Board and section 5.04.085 EMS Technical Advisory Board to change the membership of the EMS Oversight Board and the EMS Technical Advisory Board

THIS ITEM WAS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY BELOW.

9. [AB2026-292](#) Resolution amending the 2026 Flood Control Zone District and Subzones Budget, request no. 1, in the amount of \$23,406 (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

10. [AB2026-295](#) Resolution authorizing the submission of three independent grant applications to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board to restore fish passage at the Black Slough and Homesteader culverts and to complete the final design and permitting of the Tinling Creek culvert project (Council acting as the Whatcom County Flood Control Zone District Board of Supervisors)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

11. [AB2026-297](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Public Health Advisory Board, Applicant(s): Michelle Gillig (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

12. [AB2026-300](#) Receipt of application to a vacancy on the Business and Commerce Advisory Committee, Marine Trades position, Applicant(s): Rex Rhoades (Deadline for applications to this position is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 21, 2026)

**INTRODUCED**

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

**Nay:** 0

**INTRODUCTION ITEMS CONSIDERED SEPARATELY**

7. [AB2026-288](#) Ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of Whatcom County a nonbinding advisory proposition concerning a sales and use tax of one-tenth of one percent for criminal justice purposes

**TABLED**

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

**Nay:** 2 - Elenbaas, and Stremler

8. [AB2026-291](#) Ordinance amending Whatcom County Code Section 5.04.080 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Oversight Board and section 5.04.085 EMS Technical Advisory Board to change the membership of the EMS Oversight Board and the EMS Technical Advisory Board

**SUBSTITUTE INTRODUCED AS AMENDED**

**Aye:** 6 - Boyle, Buchanan, Elenbaas, Galloway, Rienstra, and Scanlon

**Nay:** 1 - Stremler

Motion approved 5-2, with Elenbaas and Stremler opposed to amend item number A(10) in Exhibit A so that it would read:

Two community members, appointed jointly by the county executive and mayor of Bellingham, who have relevant work, educational, or lived experience including but not limited to EMS/Fire personnel or volunteer, labor representative, service providers, or community members who reflect diverse perspectives and community representation.

Introduced the Revised Substitute Ordinance as amended

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, OTHER ITEMS, AND COUNCILMEMBER UPDATES**

**ADJOURN**