



City of Bellingham

City Council Regular Meeting agenda

January 26, 2026, 7:00 PM

Chair: Hannah Stone

Members: Hollie Huthman, Daniel Hammill, Edwin H. "Skip" Williams, Lisa Anderson, Michael Lilliquist, Jace Cotton

Legislative Office Manager: Jackie Weller

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How to watch City Council meetings

The City Council Regular meetings are held in a hybrid format – watch or participate in person or remotely.

In person:

All meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham unless otherwise noted. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7 p.m. meeting.

Accessibility:

Elevator access to the second floor is available at City Hall's west entrance. Hearing assistance is available, and a receiver may be checked out through the Council office prior to the evening session. For additional accommodations, contact the Council office at 360-778-8200 in advance of the meeting.

Live via BTV, Comcast, or YouTube:

Council meetings are streamed live at cob.org/meetings, cob.org/btv, and on the City's YouTube channel at youtube.com/@cityofbhamwa. Meetings are also broadcast on Comcast channels 321 (HD) and 10 (SD).

Telephone:

To listen by phone, dial 253-215-8782, enter Meeting ID: 871 5188 5205, and Password 9 when prompted.

Language access:

Spanish interpretation is available at all regular evening Council meetings.

- In-person: Headsets are available to attendees in Council Chambers.
- Online: Join the Zoom meeting at cob.org/cczoom, then select the interpretation channel at the bottom of the screen.

Those wishing to offer public comment in Spanish will be able to do so and their comments will be interpreted into English.

Meeting records:

Video recordings of each meeting are available online at cob.org/meetings within five business days following each meeting.

How to provide input

At the meeting:

To speak during a public hearing or public comment session, you must sign up in advance.

- Online: A sign-up form is available at cob.org/ccsignup on the day of the meeting.

- In person: Sign-up sheets are available outside the Council Chambers doors starting at 6:30 p.m. the evening of the meeting.
- Sign up, both online and in person, closes at 7 p.m.

Once signed up, speakers may participate via the following options:

- In person: Meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall.
- Online: Join the Zoom meeting at cob.org/cczoom and follow staff instructions at time of the hearing or public comment period.
- Over the phone: Call 253-215-8782, enter Meeting ID 871 5188 5205, and Password 9. Follow staff instructions at the time of the hearing or public comment period.

Before or after a meeting:

The City of Bellingham meets the Open Public Meetings Act by accepting written public comment in advance of City Council meetings. Send written input before or after a meeting.

- By mail addressed to: City Council, 210 Lottie Street, Bellingham, WA 98225.
- Online:
 - For a public hearing: cob.org/publichearing.
 - For general public comment: E-mail all Council Members at ccmail@cob.org.

Regular meeting

The following items are heard in the regular meeting only.

Call to order and roll call

Announcements and upcoming meetings

The Bellingham City Council meets all requirements of the State of Washington Open Public Meetings Act.

1. Land acknowledgement statement

Before we begin, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the traditional and unceded territory of the Lummi, Nooksack, Samish and Semiahmoo People who have cared for and tended this land since time immemorial. Truth and acknowledgment are critical to building mutual respect and connection across all barriers of heritage and difference. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We pay respect to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths at any and all public events.

2. Language access

The Bellingham City Council provides Spanish interpretation at all regular evening meetings. Interpretation can be accessed by in-person attendees by utilizing the headsets located at the front of the room. Remote viewers can log on to cob.org/cczoom and click on the "Language" icon at the bottom of the screen to listen in Spanish.

3. New agenda look and timing

Beginning with this meeting, City Council agenda and packet documents have a new look and are being published further in advance of the meetings. Agendas and packets will now be available one week prior to regular meetings, or on the Tuesday prior to the meeting if the Monday prior is a holiday. This is one of many efforts to modernize our systems and make City government more transparent, understandable, and accessible.

4. Next Council meeting

The next City Council meeting will be held on February 9, 2026

Mayor's report

Standing time for briefings, updates, and reports to Council by the Mayor.

Council assignment reports

Standing time for Council Member reports from assigned committees, task forces, and other groups.

Committee meeting reports

The following committee meetings are held during the day. Committee chairs will present a summary of each agenda item during the evening meeting, and further discussion or action may take place if needed. Committee meetings are open to the public to attend, however committee agendas do not include public comment sessions.

Public Works and Natural Resources 1 p.m.

Michael Lilliquist, Chair
Lisa Anderson, Jace Cotton

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| 24807 | 1. | A contract award for Old Town Redevelopment, Project ES562, Bid No. 81B-2025 | p. 6 |
| 24808 | 2. | An ordinance granting NFC Northwest, LLC a franchise to operate and maintain fiber optic broadband network components in City rights-of-way for the provision of commercial telecommunications services to businesses and residents | p. 11 |
| 24815 | 3. | Acceptance of a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the Bellingham Central Library Interior Renovation Project (Contract #26-96647-028) | p. 29 |

- 24816 4. Acceptance of a grant from the Washington State Department of Commerce for the Bellingham Central Library Interior Renovation Project (Contract #26-96647-001) p. 67

Parks and Recreation 1:45 p.m.

Edwin H. "Skip" Williams, Chair
Daniel Hammill, Jace Cotton

- 24814 1. A resolution establishing fees for the use of the City Parks and Recreation golf course p. 105

Committee Of The Whole 2:10 p.m.

Hannah Stone, Chair
Hollie Huthman, Daniel Hammill, Edwin H. "Skip" Williams, Lisa Anderson, Michael Lilliquist, Jace Cotton

- 24813 1. An ordinance relating to the Municipal Court and amending Bellingham Municipal Code section 2.16.030 to provide for the creation of a second full-time municipal judge position, an appointment process for newly created or vacated municipal judge positions, and an election for the second municipal judge position for a full judicial term beginning on January 1, 2030 p. 124
2. Old or new business

Executive session 2:30 p.m.

Closed to the public. Report in the Regular Meeting only.

1. Labor relations: review contract proposal for the Fraternal Order of Police (Danner, approx. 5 min.)

Consent agenda

Consent Agenda items are considered routine and/or non-controversial and may be approved in a single motion. A member of the Council may ask that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- 24809 1. Authorization of payroll labor cost payments dated December 1, 2025 to December 15, 2025 p. 128
- 24810 2. Authorization of AP transactions issued January 1, 2026 through January 8, 2026 p. 129

24812	3.	Authorization of AP transactions issued December 19, 2025 through December 31, 2025	p. 130
24811	4.	Approval of the January 5, 2026 City Council committee and regular meeting minutes	p. 131

Public comment period

Advance sign up is required for participation. An online sign-up form will be available at cob.org/ccsignup on the day of the meeting and paper sign-up sheets will be outside the chamber doors starting at 6:30 p.m. the evening of the meeting. Registration closes when the meeting begins at 7 p.m. Each speaker will have three minutes. Please see the first page of the agenda for further details. Video of public comment sessions are available at cob.org/commentrecordings.

Adjournment

Next City Council meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026