# City of Bellingham

City Council Regular Meeting agenda

November 2, 2026, 7 p.m.

**Chair:** Hannah Stone
**Members:** Hollie Huthman, Daniel Hammill, Edwin H. "Skip" Williams, Lisa Anderson, Michael Lilliquist, Jace Cotton
**Legislative Office Manager:** Jackie Weller

Phone: 360-778-8200
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Web: cob.org/council

## 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. 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 and enter Meeting ID: 871 5188 5205, and Password 9

**Language access:**
Recordings of City Council meetings can be viewed with subtitles or audio tracks in many different languages by changing the settings in the YouTube player. PDFs of Council materials are available in several languages by clicking the "Translate" button in the side panel when opening the document. Video captions, alternate audio tracks, and PDF translations are powered by Google Translate and may contain errors.

Information on further language access services, including how to request free interpretation at meetings, can be found at cob.org/cclanguage.

**Más información sobre el acceso de idioma disponible en: cob.org/cclanguage**
**ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨੂੰ ਐਕਸੈਸ ਕਰਨ ਬਾਰੇ ਹੋਰ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ cob.org/cclanguage 'ਤੇ ਉਪਲਬਧ ਹੈ।**
**Xem thêm thông tin về tiếp cận ngôn ngữ tại cob.org/cclanguage**

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

## How to provide input: Public comment, public hearings, and written feedback

A Public comment period is held at the beginning of each regular 7 p.m. meeting for 30 minutes or until all speakers who signed up have been called on. Public hearings, if scheduled, are topic-specific

and are held after the public comment period. Each speaker at public comment periods and public hearings has two minutes to speak (four minutes if interpretation or other accommodation is needed). A sign-up form for speakers is available on the day of the meeting. Sign up is required for public comment periods and recommended for public hearings. Speakers will be called from the sign-up sheet in a randomized order.

To sign up, follow these instructions:

- Online: The sign-up form will be available at cob.org/ccsignup on the day of the meeting.
- In person: The sign-up form will be available on an iPad or posted QR code outside the Council Chambers doors starting at 6:30 p.m. the evening of the meeting.
- The sign-up form closes when the meeting begins 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 public 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 public hearing or public comment period.
- During public hearings, speakers who have signed up in advance will be called on first, followed by any additional speakers who wish to give testimony.

**Before or after a meeting:**
Written correspondence is always welcome before or after Council meetings. Send written input to:

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

Learn more about public comment and public hearings at cob.org/public-hearings-and-public-comment-periods.

## Regular meeting

The following items are heard in the regular meeting only.

## Call to order and roll call

## Announcements and upcoming meetings

1. **Upcoming public hearing**

   On November 16, the City Council will hold a public hearing to hear public testimony on The 2026 docketed amendments to the 2025 Bellingham Comprehensive Plan, 2025 Capital Facilities Plan, 2025 Multimodal Transportation Plan, and Bellingham Municipal Code 20.00.092 Irongate Neighborhood Zoning Map. Details can be found at meetings.cob.org seven days prior to the hearing.

2. **Survey on rental regulations launching soon**

The City Council is launching two surveys to gather feedback from renters, landlords, and property managers on the City's rental regulations. Surveys for both renters and landlords/property managers will be available on engagebellingham.org by November 6 and will be live for approximately six weeks.

3. **Next Council meeting**

The next City Council meeting with be held on November 16, 2026.

## 30-minute public comment period

Advance sign-up is required for participation. The sign-up form will be available at cob.org/ccsignup on the day of the meeting and outside the chamber doors starting at 6:30 p.m. The sign-up form closes when the meeting begins at 7 p.m. Speakers will be called from the sign-up list in a randomized order. Each speaker will have two minutes to speak and the public comment period will close after 30 minutes or after all those who signed up have been called on. See the first page of the agenda for further details.

## Public hearing

A sign-up form is available and it is recommended that speakers sign up in advance. Speakers who have signed up in advance will be called on first, followed by any additional speakers who wish to give testimony. The sign-up form will be available at cob.org/ccsignup on the day of the meeting and outside the chamber doors starting at 6:30 p.m. The sign-up form closes when the meeting begins at 7 p.m. Speakers will be called from the sign-up list in a randomized order. Each speaker will have two minutes to speak. See the first page of the agenda for further details.

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| 25108 | 1. | **The second public hearing on the proposed 2027 budget** | p. 7 |
| 25114 | 2. | **A public hearing for the surplus sale of vacated alley between Iowa and Kentucky Streets** | p. 11 |
| 25115 | 3. | **A public hearing for an ordinance relating to land use and zoning, extending interim zoning regulations, applying new development regulations to single family and infill housing development, and allowing infill housing in all areas that are zoned predominantly for residential use, except on property regulated by BMC Chapter 16.80, Lake Whatcom Reservoir Regulatory Provisions, for an additional six months** | p. 25 |
| 25116 | 4. | **A public hearing for an ordinance relating to land use and planning, extending interim zoning regulations to establish clear and objective design standards citywide for infill housing, multifamily housing, commercial/mixed-use development, and urban village industrial development and to streamline the design review permitting process** | p. 39 |

## Mayor's report

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

## Council Member reports

Standing time for Council Member briefings, updates, and reports, including from assigned committees, boards, 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.

### Special meeting: Budget work session 9 a.m.

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| 25117 | 1. | **Budget work session** | p. 66 |

### Public Works and Natural Resources 1 p.m.

Michael Lilliquist, Chair
Lisa Anderson, Jace Cotton

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| 25123 | 1. | **A noise variance for Washington State Department of Transportation work for I-5 strategic pavement preservation** | p. 76 |

### Public Health, Safety, Justice, and Equity 1:10 p.m.

Daniel Hammill, Chair
Hollie Huthman, Edwin H. "Skip" Williams

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| 25122 | 1. | **A presentation from the Whatcom County Health Department on plans for 2026/2027 winter shelter** | p. 84 |

### Budget and Finance 1:40 p.m.

Lisa Anderson, Chair
Daniel Hammill, Michael Lilliquist

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| 25107 | 1. | **An interlocal agreement with Whatcom County to help fund Cascadia Village** | p. 85 |

## Committee Of The Whole 2:15 p.m.

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

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| 25118 | 1. | A work session to review the 2026 docketed amendments | p. 93 |
| 25119 | 2. | A resolution setting the dates and times of the 2027 City Council meetings | p. 143 |
| 25121 | 3. | An ordinance relating to the levy of taxes and establishing the amount to be raised in 2027 on the assessed valuation of property within the City | p. 147 |
| 25120 | 4. | A joint resolution of the City of Bellingham and Whatcom County Fire Protection District 8, adopting a Regional Fire Authority Plan and submitting to the voters a proposition to approve the formation of a Regional Fire Authority, funded by a property tax and a fire benefit charge | p. 151 |
| | 5. | Old or new business | |

## Executive session 3:40 p.m.

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

1. ~~Litigation: Blomeen v. City of Bellingham, et al (Phillips, approx. 15 min.)~~ - ITEM REMOVED 10.30.26

## 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.

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| 25109 | 1. | Authorization of AP transactions issued September 18, 2026 through September 24, 2026 | p. 194 |
| 25110 | 2. | Authorization of AP transactions issued September 25, 2026 through October 1, 2026 | p. 195 |
| 25111 | 3. | Authorization of AP transactions issued October 2, 2026 through October 8, 2026 | p. 196 |

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| 25112 | 4. | Authorization of AP transactions issued October 9, 2026 through October 15, 2026 | p. 197 |
| 25113 | 5. | Authorization of payroll labor cost payments dated September 16, 2026 to September 30, 2026 | p. 198 |

## Final consideration of ordinances

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| 25104 | 1. | An ordinance amending Bellingham Municipal Code 12.12.280 regarding aquatic invasive species to include a private boat launch permit, requirements for short-term rentals, restrictions on the launching of certain watercraft from a public right of way, and other enhanced protections | p. 199 |

## Adjournment

Next City Council meeting
Monday, November 16, 2026