City of Bellingham

City Council Regular Meeting action summary

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

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Disclaimer

This document is provided as a courtesy follow-up of the City Council meeting. This document is not to be considered the minutes from the meeting but rather a report of the action taken by Council. All information contained herein is subject to change upon further review of recordings of the proceedings and composure and approval of the meeting minutes. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Regular meeting

The following items are heard in the Regular Meeting only.

Call to order and roll call

The meeting was called to order by Council President Stone at 7 p.m.

Present:

Council President Hannah Stone, First Ward
Council Member Hollie Huthman, Second Ward
Council Member Daniel Hammill, Third Ward
Council Member Edwin H. "Skip" Williams, Fourth Ward
Council Member Lisa Anderson, Fifth Ward
Council Member Michael Lilliquist, Sixth Ward
Council Member Jace Cotton, At-Large

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**

30-minute public comment period

City Council heard public comments from 12 individuals

Public hearing

25108 1. **The second public hearing on the proposed 2027 budget** p. 7

Action:
Information and discussion only, no action taken.

25114 2. **A public hearing for the surplus sale of vacated alley between Iowa and Kentucky Streets** p. 11

Action:
Jace Cotton / Edwin H. "Skip" Williams moved to declare the vacated alley segment surplus and authorize its sale to the abutting landowners.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

Action:
Edwin H. "Skip" Williams / Michael Lilliquist moved for first and second reading.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

Action:
Jace Cotton / Edwin H. "Skip" Williams moved for first and second reading.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Mayor's report

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

Action:
Information and discussion only, no action taken.

Council member reports

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

Action:
Information and discussion only, no action taken.

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.

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

Action:
Information and discussion only, no action taken.

Public Works and Natural Resources 1 p.m.

Michael Lilliquist, Chair
Lisa Anderson, Jace Cotton

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

Action:
Michael Lilliquist / Daniel Hammill moved to approve the noise variance.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

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

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

Action:
Information and discussion only.

Budget and Finance 1:40 p.m.

Lisa Anderson, Chair
Daniel Hammill, Michael Lilliquist

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

Action:
Lisa Anderson / Daniel Hammill moved to authorize the Mayor to enter into the interlocal agreement.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

25118 1. **A work session to review the 2026 docketed amendments** p. 93

Action:
Information and discussion only.

25119 2. **A resolution setting the dates and times of the 2027 City Council meetings** p. 143

Action:
Hannah Stone / Michael Lilliquist moved final approval of Resolution #2026-29 as amended in the Committee meeting.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

Action:
Hannah Stone / Daniel Hammill moved for first and second reading.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

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

Action taken during Committee of the Whole:
Michael Lilliquist / Dan Hammill Moved to direct staff to draft an ordinance for Council's consideration that could enact specific tax reductions and tax relief that would take effect at a later date, coinciding with creation of a possible new taxing district, if and only if voters approve creation of the RFA.

Action taken during Committee of the Whole:
Hannah Stone / Hollie Huthman moved to table the motion indefinitely.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.
OPPOSED: Michael Lilliquist

Action taken during regular meeting:
Hannah Stone / Skip Williams moved to take the motion as stated above from the table.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Action taken during regular meeting:
Hannah Stone / Skip Williams moved to postpone the motion as stated above indefinitely.

MOTION CARRIED 6-1.
OPPOSED: Michael Lilliquist

5. **Old or new business**

Action:
Information and discussion only, no action taken.

Executive session 3:40 p.m.

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

Summary:
The Executive Session was canceled, as the only item originally scheduled was later removed by revision.

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.

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
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

Action:
Daniel Hammill / Hollie Huthman moved approval of the Consent Agenda in its entirety.

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Final consideration of ordinances

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

Action:
Daniel Hammill / Edwin H. "Skip" Williams moved approval for third and final reading. Upon motion, said bill was placed on final passage and approved by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Stone, Huthman, Hammill, Williams, Anderson, Lilliquist, Cotton
NAYS: (None)
EXCUSED: (None)

MOTION CARRIED 7-0 and was thereafter named **Ordinance # 2026-11-033**

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Jacqueline Weller, Legislative Office Manager
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