

**City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 10, 2026**

**Minutes**

**WORK SESSION**

Mayor Watterson convened the work session at 6:30 pm with:

**PRESENT**

Councilmember Linda Gotovac

Councilmember Elaine Klamn

Councilmember Jeff Eisel

Councilmember Adam Carney

Councilmember Tianne Curtiss

1. 2026 Budget & Recovery Plan: To review and discuss.

Mayor Watterson -

"I just wanted to start out by saying a couple things before we get started on this. I know this whole budget issue and policing discussion has been very difficult. We inherited a financial crisis. We have diagnosed it honestly. We have a plan to fix it and we are executing that plan. The people now calling for more study in history and more delay is just continuing the crisis and it's getting worse. If you look at our five year history, if well five year history is the problem, interfund borrowing never properly accounted for until the \$1.6 million draw from the water and sewer funds. We gave a 35% pay increase for our police officers, which is well deserved, but probably not fiscally responsible. This is my opinion. Water and sewer funds drained were drained to cover general fund overspending which created another crisis because we drew down those funds so much. Now if we end up having any problems in our water or sewer system, it leaves very little room for us to make it to make any repairs properly. So you can see the crisis is twofold. It's not just our general fund. It's all those funds that we had to borrow from. And the city started 2026 with \$148,000 and \$106,000 below what we really should have in our in our starting balances." Mayor Watterson presented and broke down the 2026 Budget & Recovery Plan and fielded the crowd questions. He is asking for the Councils approval to hold preliminary, fact-finding discussions with the Thurston County Sheriff's Office strictly to gather data on the potential costs and coverage models for contracted law enforcement services, and to report those findings back to the Council.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Watterson convened the regular Council Meeting at 7:30PM with:

**PRESENT**

Councilmember Linda Gotovac

Councilmember Elaine Klamn

Councilmember Jeff Eisel

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Councilmember Adam Carney  
Councilmember Tianne Curtiss

Flag salute

## **AGENDA APPROVAL**

### 2. Agenda Approval

**Recommended Action:** Motion to approve the 03/10/2026 Agenda as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Carney, Seconded by Councilmember Klamn.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember Eisel,  
Councilmember Carney, Councilmember Curtiss.

Motion passes: 5/0.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### 3. Approval of Minutes

**Recommended Action:** Motion to approve the 03/10/2026 Minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Curtiss, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember Eisel,  
Councilmember Carney, Councilmember Curtiss.

Motion passes: 5/0.

## **CONSENT CALENDAR**

### 4. Consent Calendar for February 25, 2026 through March 10, 2026 consisting of:

Payroll EFT's in the amount of \$80,890.70 and Claims Checks #33946 through #33975 and EFT's  
in the amount of \$131,634.19 for a Grand Total of \$212,524.89.

Liquor License Renewals: None

**Recommended Action:** Move to approve the consent calendar as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Gotovac, Seconded by Councilmember Curtiss.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember Eisel,  
Councilmember Carney, Councilmember Curtiss.

Motion passes: 5/0.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

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5. John O'Callahan to discuss SB 6110 - 2025-26  
Addressing electric-assisted bicycles and electric motorcycles.

John O'Callahan discussed the Senate Bill 6110 was approved and went over to the house side. He stated that there is a committee forming and he is requesting a letter of recommendation from the Mayor and the Tenino City Council for the proposed Senate Bill 6110 it is putting together a work group through Department of Licensing.

Stated in the bill: The Department of Licensing must convene a work group study and recommend a revised statutory framework for electric motorcycles.

Mr. O'Callahan would like to utilize his knowledge on the matter and his history with the TRB and City Council to gain recommendations to be selected for this work group.

Mayor Watterson and the Councilmembers agreed to providing recommendations on behalf of Mr. O'Callahan if the occasion arises.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dave Champagne, owner of Castle Realty in Tenino, WA. Is here to address the letter he sent in addressing the policing discussions last meeting.

Mayor Watterson replied that the Finance Committee has been meeting every two weeks instead of their previous quarterly to talk about these exact issues. Mr. Champagne would like to sit down with the Mayor, Clerk Treasurer and anyone on the finance committee that could go through the details. He would like to come up with a task force of such, a collaboration of people from this area that understand the finances and and understand budgets.

Dina Sanchez addressed her concerns regarding Public Safety especially at the Schools. Response time, financial portion, building relationships with the community.

Brianne with Little Country Cookies addressed concerns regarding Children also.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

None.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

6. Resolution to be discussed and worked on:

Previous Council Meeting it was requested to break out into 2 separate Resolutions.

1: Public Safety Priority

2: 2027 Budget Protection

Councilmember Gotovac presented the revised Resolution. The revision is regarding Public Safety Only.

Motion made by Councilmember Gotovac, Seconded by Councilmember Curtiss.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Curtiss

Voting Nay: Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember Eisel, Councilmember Carney

Motion Failed: 3/2.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

7. Authorize the Mayor to hold preliminary, fact-finding discussions with the Thurston County Sheriff's Office strictly to gather data on the potential costs and coverage models for contracted law enforcement services, and to report those findings back to the Council.

**Recommended Action:** move to authorize the Mayor to hold preliminary, fact-finding discussions with the Thurston County Sheriff's Office strictly to gather data on the potential costs and coverage models for contracted law enforcement services, and to report those findings back to the Council.

Motion made by Councilmember Klamn, Seconded by Councilmember Carney.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember Eisel, Councilmember Carney, Councilmember Curtiss.

Motion passes: 5/0.

8. The first 2 months of 2026 expenditures exceeded revenue by almost \$23,000.00

**Recommended Action:** Review and discussion of Treasurer's report and Budget position.

C/T Reddick sent out the bank statements and the treasurer's report to the council members. She encourages everyone to ask questions. We received the Lexipol grant only providing \$2,500.00 / year. Councilmember Eisel asked if the unclaimed property process has been worked on. C/T stated no, we have not had the time and also it would not assist in saving us money to assist the budget.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

None.

## **ORDINANCES**

None.

## **REPORTS**

9. **Outside Agency**

- 1) Chamber of Commerce - George Sharp - Tenino Arts Spring Market this Friday-Sunday 10am-5pm at the Kodiak Room. The next Chamber Lunch forum is Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, Noon at the Sandstone Quarry and Bar
- 2) Economic Development Council (EDC)
- 3) South Thurston Economic Development Initiative (STEDI) - will be on Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 8am at the Yelm Community Center.

#### **10. 13. Committees/Commissions**

- 1) Civil Service Commission - Still needing applicants.
- 2) Finance Committee - Discussed that budget and financial challenges and potential solutions.
- 3) Planning Commission - Next meeting tomorrow evening.
- 5) Public Works Committee - Next meeting at the end of the month.

#### **11. 14. Staff**

- 4) PARC Specialist - Jessica Reeves-Rush spoke about the Family Fun Day on June 27<sup>th</sup>, already getting volunteers and donations and the Quarry pool grand opening. Trying to come up with a good way to honor Americas 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration. The Ballfield grant is underway, we will get reimbursement throughout this grant. She has been doing a large amount of grant management and different revenue sources. Public works is waiting to break ground on the basketball & pickleball court. The Tenino Garden Club, partnering with the Chamber of Commerce for the hanging baskets which the flowers are being grown at the high school.
- 5) Clerk/Treasurer - C/T Reddick really encourages everyone to look at the budget and ask questions. Councilmember Eisel asked about the checks for all the vendor claims not claimed that would cost us over \$135,000.00 if they were to be processed.
- 6) Mayor - working on documents he presented tonight. TRPC Grant coming up \$310,000.00 one big focus to be sidewalks in 2027. Spoke with Aslan about the AG Park.

#### **12. 15. Liaisons**

- 2) Solid Waste Advisory Board - There has been a newly elected chairman.
- 4) Tenino School Board - The Superintendent group has stated there has been a reduction in force but not in Tenino.
- 5) Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC)
- 6) Transportation Policy Board - Thursday 3-12-26
- 8) Legislature - they are working on budget. Over 6,000 amendments.
- 9) Oregon Trail Days - they met last week and everything is moving forward on Parade.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS 2**

Jody Stolz presented that the new appraisal has been done and she is stating that they are offering 90 days to accept their proposal.

- 1) Tenino can carry to contract and the city keeps both parcels and the food bank pays you the interest.
- 2) Wait the four years so she can collect more funds to finish buying it.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Watterson adjourned the meeting at 8:57PM.