

MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL
August 18, 2026



CONVENE: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Leatta Dahlhoff and Councilmembers Peter Agabi, Joan Cathey, Angela Jefferson, Meghan Sullivan, Eileen Swarhout, Kelly Von Holtz and Brandon Weedon.

Staff: City Administrator Paul Simmons, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Adams, Administrative Services Director Michelle Sutherland, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Community Development Director Brad Medrud, Communications Manager Jason Wettstein, Finance Director Troy Niemeyer, Information Technology Director Lance Inman, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Denney, Acting Deputy Police Chief Ken Driver, Water Resources & Sustainability Director Dan Smith, Water Resources Program Manager Patrick Soderberg, Water Resource Specialist Carrie Gillum, Water Resource Specialist Alex Kate Halvey, and Deputy City Clerk Tracie Core.

Others: Thurston County Public Health & Social Services Opioid Response Coordinator Katie Strozyk and Education and Outreach Specialist Kateri Wimsett and Thurston Conservation District Executive Director Sarah Moorehead and Board Chair TJ Johnson.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

PROCLAMATION: Councilmember Sullivan read a proclamation declaring August 31, 2026, International Overdose Awareness Day. The proclamation calls on the people of Tumwater to raise awareness around drug overdose by reducing stigma through initiatives related to education, prevention, treatment, and recovery support for substance use disorder.

INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY, AUGUST 31, 2026

Mayor Dalhoff presented the proclamation to Katie Strozyk and Kateri Wimsett with the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department Opioid Response Program.

**THURSTON
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT
PRESENTATION:**

Director Moorehead and Board Chair Johnson with the Thurston Conservation District gave a presentation on the work that they do and the work they are doing with the City of Tumwater.

The Thurston Conservation District is a voluntary, non-regulatory entity. They work all throughout Thurston County and have unique partnerships with several jurisdictions to address specific needs in those communities. Throughout this presentation core services were highlighted and include:

- Habitat Restoration
- Agriculture and Local Food Systems
- Urban Conservation
- Forestry & Wildfire resilience
- Native Plants and Pollinators
- K-12 Education
- Community Gardens

Councilmembers asked questions and shared comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment was given by resident Nicandri.

**CONSENT
CALENDAR:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: City Council Meeting, July 21, 2026
- b. Approval of Minutes: City Council Joint Planning Commission & Tree Board Tour, July 28, 2026
- c. Payment of Vouchers
- d. Ordinance No. O2026-016, Parking Lot Lighting
- e. Resolution No. R2026-008, Charitable Partnerships
- f. Resolution No. R2026-012, Council Rules
- g. Data share agreement with the Secretary of State for the Combined Fund Drive
- h. Reappointment of Satpal Sohal, Dave Bills and Brian Reynolds to the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee

MOTION:

Councilmember Weedon moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson, to approve the Consent Calendar as published. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.

**COUNCIL
CONSIDERATIONS:**

**2026 DROUGHT
BRIEFING AND
PUBLIC OUTREACH:**

Program Manager Soderberg introduced Senior Specialist Gillum and Resource Specialist Halvey who shared the 2026 Summer Drought Assessment and Public Outreach presentation.

Every year Tumwater does an annual drought assessment looking at many different sites for information at both the national and regional levels.

Senior Specialist Gillum shared a shortage response plan that consists of the four following stages:

- Stage 1 – Advisory-Voluntary Reductions
- Stage 2 – Minor Shortage-Voluntary Reductions
- Stage 3 – Moderate Shortage- Mandatory Restrictions
- Stage 4 – Severe Shortage-Emergency Curtailment

Resource Specialist Halvey shared about the Water Conservation Program that included public outreach efforts with water conservation messaging using utility bill inserts during the months of May, July and August. Councilmembers asked questions and shared comments.

**COUNCILMEMBER
REPORTS:**

No reports were given due to time constraints.

**MAYOR/CITY
ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT:**

Mayor Dahlhoff gave no report.

Administrator Simmons commended the Parks and Recreation Department for a successful Brewfest with over 3,000 people attending the event. The event consisted of forty-seven breweries, cideries, and distilleries. A thank you was also given to all the city departments that supported this event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Dahlhoff recessed the meeting at 8:44 p.m. to discuss Collective Bargaining pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) for approximately 10 minutes.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Dahlhoff reconvened the meeting and adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Prepared by Tracie Core, Deputy City Clerk