

# MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL  
May 19, 2026



**CONVENE:** 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff: City Administrator Paul Simmons, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Adams, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Administrative Services Director Michelle Sutherland, Acting Police Chief Carlos Quiles Jr, Community Development Director Brad Medrud, Communications Director Jason Wettstein, Information Technology Director Lance Inman, Transportation & Engineering Director Brandon Hicks, Water Resources & Sustainability Director Dan Smith, Utility Operations Assistant Manager Cory Hale, and Deputy Director Transportation & Engineering Jeffrey Cook.

## **SPECIAL ITEMS:**

**PROCLAMATION:  
PUBLIC WORKS WEEK,  
MAY 17-24, 2026** Councilmember Von Holtz read a proclamation declaring May 17-24, 2026, Public Works week. Public Works week celebrates the joint effort of the Water Resources & Sustainability Department and the Transportation and Engineering Department. Together they provide essential services that are an integral part of our community such as water, sewer, stormwater, streets and sidewalks, fleet maintenance, engineering and geographic information systems.

Mayor Dahlhoff presented the proclamation to Deputy Director Cook and Manager Hale.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Public Comment was given by residents and community members Figueroa, Nicandri, Baker and Holthaus.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: City Council Work Session, April 28, 2026
- b. Payment of Vouchers
- c. Interlocal Agreement with the Administrative Office of the Courts
- d. Interlocal Agreement with Cities of Olympia and Lacey and Thurston County for Implementing the South Sound Green Program
- e. Traffic and Criminal Software (TraCS) Record Sharing Agreement with Washington State Patrol
- f. Memorandum of Understanding with the Port of Olympia for Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Radio Equipment
- g. Additional Construction Funds Request with Active Construction Inc. for the 2nd Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements project

**MOTION:** **Councilmember Von Holtz, moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.**

**COUNCIL  
CONSIDERATIONS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. O2026-015, TMC 2.10.040 CHIEF OF POLICE APPOINTMENT/DUTIES** Director Sutherland presented Ordinance No. O2026-015, which amends Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) 2.10.040 to require that the Chief of Police be appointed by a majority vote of the City Council, rather than by the Mayor. Administrator Simmons noted that three other city positions already require majority Council approval: the City Administrator, City Attorney, and Finance Director.

Acting Chief Quiles highlighted the importance of City Council confirmation for the Chief of Police, noting that a high-visibility position requires broad support from the Council, staff, and the community. Councilmembers voiced their support for the change, citing it as a measure of good governance and transparency.

**MOTION:** Councilmember Sullivan, moved, seconded by Councilmember Weedon, to adopt Ordinance No. O2026-015, Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) 2.10.040 Chief of Police Appointment / Duties. Motion carried unanimously.

**MAYOR/CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Administrator Simmons reported that last week he, along with Mayor Dahlhoff, Councilmember Sullivan, Acting Chief Quiles, and Chief Hurley, met with representatives from the Chehalis Tribe. They had a productive discussion sharing their visions and values. They plan to meet monthly to maintain an ongoing relationship.

Mayor Dahlhoff reported that the Budget & Finance Committee will meet on May 22, 2026.

**COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:** Councilmembers Agabi, Cathey, Sullivan, Swarthout, Von Holtz and Weedon gave reports.

Councilmember Jefferson gave a report and shared that the Public Works Committee will meet May 21, 2026, to discuss the following:

- Resolution No. R2026-009, Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program
- 2026 Drought Briefing

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Mayor Dahlhoff recessed the meeting at 8:05 p.m. to discuss Potential Litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for approximately 20 minutes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Dahlhoff reconvened and adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Prepared by City Clerk, Melody Valiant