

MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
May 7, 2026



CONVENE: 11:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Chair Angela Jefferson, Councilmembers Eileen Swarthout and Kelly Von Holtz

Staff: City Administrator Paul Simmons, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Water Resources & Sustainability Director Dan Smith, Finance Director Troy Niemeyer, Water Resources & Sustainability Deputy Director Tyle Zuchowski, Transportation & Engineering Deputy Director Jeff Cook, Sustainability Manager Alyssa Jones Wood, Program Manager Patrick Soderberg, Construction Manager Colby Fletcher, Water Resources Specialist Grant Gilmore, Community Engagement Specialist Marnie McGrath, Urban Forester Brian Caughlan, Project Administrator Dena Hackney, and Administrative Assistant Bonnie Hale

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson to approve the minutes of February 19, 2026 & March 5, 2026. A voice vote approved the motion.**

TREE CANOPY EQUITY PROGRAM: Forester Caughlan presented a new program meant to expand the city’s tree canopy coverage, primarily in disadvantaged communities with Urban Heat Island Index concerns, as required by the Urban Forestry Action Plan. This program will be funded entirely by a grant from the River Network.

MOTION: **Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Von Holtz to place the Tree Canopy Equity Program presentation on the June 2, 2026, City Council consideration calendar.**

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE CITIES OF OLYMPIA, LACEY, AND THURSTON COUNTY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SOUTH SOUND GREEN PROGRAM:

Specialist Gilmore presented on the Interlocal Agreement for the implementation of the South Sound Green Program, addressing one of the regulation requirements of the Phase II NPDES permit for stormwater pollution and prevention education. The City of Tumwater’s share of the contract cost is 13% of the total cost for 2026.

MOTION:

Councilmember Von Holtz moved, seconded by Councilmember Swarthout to place the Interlocal Agreement with the Cities of Olympia, Lacey, and Thurston County for the Implementation of the South Sound Green Program on the May 19, 2026, City Council consent calendar with a recommendation to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign.

ADDITIONAL CONSTRUCTION FUNDS REQUEST WITH ACTIVE CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR THE 2ND AVENUE PEDESTRIAN BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT:

Manager Fletcher gave a project overview of the project on 2nd Avenue and outlined the initial costs for the work. Unexpected work is required after discovering previously unknown utility conflicts and obstructions after breaking ground, and additional work is required to repair pavement in worse condition than previously thought, which was not originally budgeted for in this project. In addition, costs for asphalt and fuel have recently increased due to market volatility, raising costs even higher. Manager Fletcher requested change order authority for an additional 20% of the original project cost.

MOTION:

Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson to increase the change order authority provided to the Transportation & Engineering Director under the Tumwater Municipal Code 2.14.060 from 10 percent to 20 percent for the 2nd Avenue Pedestrian Bicycle Improvements Project and place on the May 19, 2026 City Council consent calendar with a recommendation to approve.

ADJOURNMENT:

With there being no further business, Chair Jefferson adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Prepared by Bonnie Hale, Administrative Assistant