



CITY OF
TUMWATER

**PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA**

**Online via Zoom and In Person at
Tumwater Fire Department
Headquarters, Training Room, 311 Israel
Rd. SW, Tumwater, WA 98501**

**Tuesday, February 24, 2026
7:00 PM**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Changes to Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Meeting Minutes February 24, 2026
5. Commissioner's Reports
6. Deputy Director's Report
7. Public Comment
8. Public Hearing
9. Rules of Procedure
10. 2026 Housekeeping Amendments
11. Next Meeting Date - 03/10/2026
12. Adjourn

Meeting Information

The public are welcome to attend in person, by telephone or online via Zoom.

Watch Online

Go to <http://www.zoom.us/join> and enter the Webinar ID 846 0350 7003 and Passcode 112989.

Listen by Telephone

Call (253) 215-8782, listen for the prompts and enter the Webinar ID 846 0350 7003 and Passcode 112989.

Public Comment

The public is invited to attend the hearing and offer comment. The public may register in advance for this webinar to provide comment:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_THFOYN0ATqOyyI7QOU237q

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The public may also submit comments prior to the meeting by sending an email to: cdd@ci.tumwater.wa.us. Please send the comments by 1:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting. Comments are submitted directly to the Commission/Board Members and will not be read individually into the record of the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact Deputy Community Development Director, Sharon Lumbantobing at (360) 754-4180 or slumbantobing@ci.tumwater.wa.us.

Post Meeting

Video of this meeting will be recorded and posted on our City Meeting page: <https://tumwater-wa.municodemeetings.com>.

Accommodations

The City of Tumwater takes pride in ensuring that people with disabilities are able to take part in, and benefit from, the range of public programs, services, and activities offered by the City. To request an accommodation or alternate format of communication, please contact the City's ADA Coordinator directly, call (360) 754-4129 or email ADACoordinator@ci.tumwater.wa.us. For vision or hearing impaired services, please contact the Washington State Relay Services at 7-1-1 or 1-(800)-833-6384.

What is the Planning Commission?

The Tumwater Planning Commission is a citizen advisory commission that is appointed by and advisory to the City Council on the preparation and amendment of land use plans and implementing ordinances such as zoning. Actions by the Planning Commission are not final decisions; they are Commission recommendations to the City Council who must ultimately make the final decision. If you have any questions or suggestions on ways the Commission can serve you better, please contact the Community Development Department at (360) 754-4180.

Decorum Statement

Welcome to the Planning Commission meeting. We thank you for attending.

The City Council encourages community engagement in local government and provides a variety of ways to participate.

The Chair of the Planning Commission will be responsible for conducting orderly and efficient meetings within the scheduled time. To accomplish that, the Chair will maintain order and decorum and can regulate inappropriate debate, repetitious discussion, and disruptive behavior when needed.

The Chair will recognize those that wish to speak and may limit the time allowed for individual comments. City staff will record questions and comments during the meeting. If an issue or question cannot be addressed during the meeting, City staff will address the issue or respond to the question by following up with the individual.

We respectfully request that attendees refrain from disruptions during the meeting and comply with decorum rules.

Thank you for participating.

MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER PLANNING COMMISSION
February 10, 2026



CONVENE: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Elizabeth Robbins and Commissioners Sandra Nelson, Terry Kirkpatrick, Grace Edwards, and Gina Kotek.

Excused: Vice Chair Brandon Staff

Staff: Associate Planner Dana Bowers, Associate Planner Erika Smith-Erickson, Deputy Community Development Director Sharon Lumbantobing, Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Denney, Recreation Manager Todd Anderson, Economic Development Coordinator Gene Angel, and Information Technology Director Lance Inman

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: No changes were made.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: **Commissioner Kirkpatrick moved, seconded by Commissioner Nelson, to approve the minutes of June 24, 2025, and January 27, 2026, as published. The motion was approved unanimously.**

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: No reports.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Deputy Director Lumbantobing notified the Commissioners of the Joint City Council, Planning Commission, and Tree Board Urban Forestry Tour scheduled for July 28, 2026.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was given.

PARKS RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE:

Director Denney provided an update on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, which is scheduled to be adopted by City Council as a Comprehensive Plan Amendment in November 2026.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN UPDATE:

Mr. Angel provided an update on the Economic Development Plan, which is scheduled to be adopted by City Council as a Comprehensive Plan Amendment in November 2026.

RULES OF PROCEDURE:

Deputy Director Lumbantobing led a review of the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure. Commissioners requested exploration if amendments could be made to Item B 3 to clarify the meeting location and Item E to clarify quorum requirements.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chair Robbins adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Prepared by Dana Bowers, Associate Planner

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Sharon Lumbantobing, Deputy Community Development Director
DATE: February 24, 2026
SUBJECT: Rules of Procedure

1) Recommended Action:

Amend the Planning Commission Rules of Procedure.

2) Background:

The Planning Commission Rules of Procedure currently reference City Hall as the meeting location. Including a specific location is not necessary as meeting locations are provided through agendas and public notices and may change over time. Other minor edits are suggested.

3) Alternatives:

None.

4) Attachments:

A. Rules of Procedure

CITY OF TUMWATER PLANNING COMMISSION
RULES OF PROCEDURE

We, the members of the Planning Commission of the City of Tumwater, State of Washington, created by Chapter 2.56 *Planning Commission* the Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 35.63 *Planning Commissions*, do hereby adopt, publish, and declare the following Rules of Procedure.

A. NAME

The official name shall be the "City of Tumwater Planning Commission."

B. MEETINGS

- 1. Regular Meetings – The Planning Commission shall meet regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. unless otherwise designated. Continuation of meetings past 9:30 p.m. will require approval of a motion by a majority of the members.
- 2. Special Meetings – When a special case, questions, or matter of interest arises, the Planning Commission Chair (Chair), or a majority of the Planning Commission, may call a special meeting.
- ~~3. Planning Commission meetings will be held at Tumwater City Hall, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater, Washington, unless otherwise directed by the Chair and alternative meeting arrangements are approved by the City Attorney.~~
- 3. When a regular meeting conflicts with a legal holiday or an election day, the Chair may reschedule or cancel that meeting.
- 4. If no matters over which the Planning Commission has jurisdiction are pending upon its calendar, a meeting may be cancelled at the notice of the Chair, and notice shall be posted at the meeting place.
- 5. Except as may be modified by these rules of procedure, "Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised," shall govern the conduct of the meetings.
- 6. Members should establish a high priority to attend all meetings and to come prepared to contribute to the discussion.

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7. Each member of the Planning Commission who cannot attend a scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission shall notify the Chair and the Community Development Department at City Hall at the earliest possible opportunity and, at the, latest, prior to 5:00 P.M. on the Monday prior to the meeting. The Planning Manager shall notify the Chair in the event that the projected absences will produce a lack of a quorum.

C. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Planning Commission shall be a Chair and a Vice Chair elected by the appointed members of the Planning Commission, and such other officers as the Planning Commission may elect.
2. The election of officers shall take place each year on the first regular meeting in November each calendar year. The term of each officer shall run until the subsequent election.
3. In the event the position of Chair is vacated, the Vice Chair shall replace the Chair, and the Vice Chair will be replaced by a vote of the members of the Planning Commission.

D. DUTIES AND POWERS OFFICERS

1. Chair:
 - a. Preside at all meetings of the Planning Commission.
 - b. Call special meetings of the Planning Commission in accordance with the rules of procedure.
 - c. Sign documents of the Planning Commission.
 - d. See that all actions of the Planning Commission are properly taken.
 - e. The Chair, as a member of the Planning Commission, shall have the full right of his or her own vote.
 - f. The Chair may choose to limit the amount of time given for public testimony at hearings or during general discussions if each speaker is allotted an equal amount of time.
2. Vice Chair:
 - a. During the absence, disability, or disqualification of the

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Chair, the Vice Chair shall exercise or perform all duties and be subject to all the responsibilities of the Chair.

3. Temporary Chair:
 - a. If the Chair and Vice Chair are both absent, the members present may select for the meeting a temporary Chair who shall exercise the powers of the elected Chair.
4. Secretary:
 - a. Staff shall perform the usual and necessary secretarial functions of the Planning Commission including preparation of minutes of each meeting.

E. QUORUM

As specified in TMC 2.56.040 *Planning Commission – Quorum*, a simple majority of the currently appointed membership of the Planning Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any action taken by a majority of those present, when those present constitute a quorum, at any regular or special meeting of the Planning Commission, shall be deemed and taken as the action of the Planning Commission.

F. ABSENCE OF MEMBERS

Failure of any member to attend a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of all meetings and workshops of the Planning Commission during any calendar year shall result in the member's record being forwarded by the Chair to the Mayor for consideration of asking for the member's resignation. Excused absences shall not be counted as absences in calculating the percentage of attendance.

G. VACANCIES

Vacancies on the Planning Commission shall be filled subject to the process in TMC 2.56.020 *Planning Commission – Vacancies*.

H. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Any member who has a conflict of interest¹ on any matter that is on the

¹ See Chapter 42.23 RCW *Code of Ethics for Municipal Officers—Contract Interests* and City of Tumwater *Policy Manual – Part 1: Personnel Policies*, Section 8.04 *Prohibited Conduct*. For additional information see the Municipal Research and Services Center website for additional

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Planning Commission agenda shall recuse themselves from participation and decisions on such a matter. When there is a conflict of interest with an agenda item, the Chair is encouraged to put that item last on the agenda so that the member can participate and then they can be excused.

I. APPEARANCE OF FAIRNESS

1. Any member who feels they have an "appearance of fairness"² issue on any quasi-judicial action that is on the Planning Commission agenda shall voluntarily excuse themselves, vacate their seat, leave the meeting room, and refrain from discussing and voting on such item as a member.
2. As an alternative, if a member feels that they can impartially participate in an issue may, particularly when there is a question of maintaining a quorum, fully disclose, at the beginning of the discussion of an issue, their "appearance of fairness" situation and ask if anyone on the Planning Commission or in the audience has an objection to the member being involved in discussing and voting on the issue.

J. COMPENSATION

As specified in RCW 35.63.030 *Planning Commissions – Commissioners – Number – Tenure - Compensation*, the members of the Planning Commission, including the Chair and Vice Chair, while acting as such, shall serve without compensation.

K. ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Generally, the Planning Commission will follow the following order of business at all meetings:
 - a. Call to order.
 - 1) Roll call.

information: http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore_Topics/Legal/Ethics_Fairness_Conflicts_of_Interest/Conflicts_of_Interest.aspx

² See Chapter 42.36 RCW *Appearance of Fairness Doctrine – Limitations*. See also *Appearance of Fairness Doctrine in Washington State*, Municipal Research and Services Center: <http://mrsc.org/getmedia/04ac5092-48df-4964-91d7-2a9d87eb2b7c/Appearance-Of-Fairness-Doctrine-In-Washington-State.pdf.aspx?ext=.pdf>

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- 2) Announcement of agenda.
 - 3) Reading and/or approval of minutes.
 - 4) Commissioner and Planning Manager reports.
 - 5) Comments from the audience on any topic that is not the subject of public hearing. The Chair may limit the length of comments as needed per Section (D)(1)(f).
 - 6) Hearings.
 - 7) Briefings.
 - 8) Worksessions.
 - 9) Discussions.
 - 10) Adjournment.
- b. The order of business may be changed during the meeting by the Chair by a vote of a majority of the members present.
2. Regular Meetings – Public Hearings
- c. All Planning Commission recommendations shall be forwarded to the City Council for final action. Cases for which the Planning Commission takes no action shall be forwarded to the City Council for review and recommendation.
 - d. On matters requiring public hearings, such hearings shall be held only after complying with State Environmental Policy Act procedures. A matter may be heard at the public hearing pending the threshold determination, but such matter shall not be referred from the Planning Commission to the City Council prior to the rendering of the threshold determination or the preparation of a Final Environmental Impact Statement if one is required.
 - e. Staff will do presentation of each item of business at the public hearing. Following the public hearing and necessary discussion, the Staff will make a recommendation for action to the Planning Commission.
 - f. No official action from the Planning Commission will be considered prior to any required public hearing. Exceptions may be considered only on items which have had prior hearings and which have been resubmitted for consideration, if no new conditions or no new information

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is present.

- g. It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to present to the City Council, through Staff, special information regarding those cases or proposals having unusual significance.

L. MINUTES AND RECORDING OF MEETINGS

The purpose of the minutes and recordings of meetings is to provide the City Council, Planning Commission, and the public with a clear understanding the discussion leading to the decision and of what was decided. If recordings are not publicly available for meetings, minutes should be detailed enough for the City Council and public to follow the work of the Planning Commission and for members to use to refresh their memories later. Complete and accessible records of each meeting, including packets and materials submitted before and during the meeting will be maintained by the City Clerk.

M. AMENDMENT

A majority of a quorum of the Planning Commission may amend the rules of procedure at any meeting of the Planning Commission, if notice of said amendment(s) is given to each member in writing at least two (2) weeks prior to said meeting.

APPROVED BY PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION

Amended February 24, 2026

Amended November 10, 2020

Adopted June 9, 2020

TO: Planning Commission
FROM: Brad Medrud, Community Development Director
DATE: February 24, 2026
SUBJECT: 2026 Housekeeping Amendments

1) Recommended Action:

This is a briefing to discuss the first set of 2026 Housekeeping Amendments.

2) Background:

During 2025 and 2026, staff gathered information on five proposed minor development code housekeeping amendments to the Tumwater Municipal Code to be considered collectively in the first half of 2026.

3) Alternatives:

None.

4) Attachments:

- A. Staff Report
- B. Presentation

STAFF REPORT



Date: February 24, 2026
To: Planning Commission
From: Brad Medrud, Community Development Director

2026 Development Code Housekeeping

During 2025 and 2026, staff gathered information on five proposed minor development code housekeeping amendments to the Tumwater Municipal Code to be considered collectively in 2026. The five proposed amendments are intended to make minor corrections to the City’s development regulations.

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1. 2026 Development Code Housekeeping Amendments

The following is a summary of the five proposed amendments.

A. Building Demolition

The amendments clarify that removal of foundations is a part of the building demotion process that is addressed through TMC Chapter 15.50 *Building Demolition*. Currently, the code does not address the removal of foundations during demolition, and this has been an issue that results in health and safety concerns.

Code Sections to be amended:

- TMC 15.50.020 – Building Demolition – Definitions
- TMC 15.50.035 – Building Demolition – Application Requirements
- TMC 15.50.060 – Building Demolition – Final Inspection by the City

Proposed amendment language:

15.50.020 Definitions.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply:

A. *“Demolition” means the tearing down, razing or removal of a building or structure or portion thereof, including foundations when no replacement structures are proposed, for the purpose of complete or partial removal of buildings or structures, or to prepare for reconstruction or remodeling of a building or structure.*

[...]

F. *“Valuation” for the purpose of providing a bond and calculating a permit fee for building demolition shall be the estimated cost to complete all scheduled demolition work; including, but not limited to: (1) removal of buildings, structures and foundations; (2) removal and termination of public and private site utilities; (3) abatement and/or removal of asbestos or other hazardous materials; (4) restoration of street frontage improvements; (5) protection of the property from erosion; and (6) restoration of the site to eliminate trash, debris, attractive nuisances, or hazards to life or property. When permit applications for replacement structures have been submitted to the city, valuation does not include the removal of foundations.*

15.50.035 Application requirements.

Application shall be made for demolition permits on forms provided by the city. An application shall also include:

A. *Site plan of property where work is going to take place. This plan shall include structure(s) being demolished, including foundations, location of utilities, septic tanks, an itemized statement of valuation of demolition and restoration work to be performed, or other such items as may be required by the building official.*

[...]

F. *A written work schedule for the demolition project. Included in this may be, but are not limited to, street closures, building moving dates, right-of-way work, how the site will be addressed after demolition, including, removing foundations, final grading, and erosion control, or other items as required by the building official.*

[...]

15.50.060 Final inspection by the city.

A final inspection shall be made when all demolition-related debris, contaminated soil, paving, concrete, foundations, and utilities have been removed from the property and disposed of properly. Final inspection does not include the removal of foundations when permit applications for replacement structures have been submitted to the city.

B. Housing – State Department of Commerce

After the City Council approved Ordinance No. O2025- 011 2025 Development Code Amendments on December 16, 2025, as part its review process the State Department of Commerce provided the following comments to the City on January 12, 2026.

Thanks for submitting the city’s adopted development regulations. We just have a couple of comments for the city to consider moving forward:

- *Please ensure that ADUs are defined consistent with a dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family housing unit, duplex, triplex, townhome or other housing unit (RCW 36.70A.696(6)).*
- *This may be an oversight, but it appears in code sections 18.12.050.D and 18.16.050.D density is limited to two dwelling units per lot including ADUs. You actually have it correct in code section 18.42.010.A, which allows two ADUs with the principal structure, and is consistent with state law.*
- *It would be a good idea to clarify in code section 18.42.010.E that zoning and design review requirements for ADUs are not more restrictive than those for the principal units (RCW 36.70A.681(1)(h))*

The amendments address Commerce’s comments.

Code Sections to be amended:

- TMC 18.04.010, A Definitions
- TMC 18.12.050, Development Standards
- TMC 18.14.050, Development Standards
- TMC 18.16.050, Development Standards
- TMC 18.42.010, Accessory Dwelling Units

Proposed amendment language:

18.04.010 A definitions.

“A-board sign” or “sandwich board sign” means a portable sign consisting of two sign faces hinged at the top and separated at the bottom to make itself standing.

[...]

“Accessory dwelling unit” means a dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family detached dwelling, duplex, triplex, townhouse, or other ~~that is an accessory use or structure subordinate to a principal residential structure~~ subject to the general land use regulations found in TMC 18.42.010.

[...]

18.12.050 Development standards.

Development in the LDR low density residential zone district must meet the following requirements:

[...]

D. Dwelling Unit Allowance.

1. Density on individual lots in the LDR low density residential zone district can be exceeded to meet the dwelling unit allowance as follows:

a. Allow up to two dwelling units per lot, except for accessory dwelling units, which are subject to TMC 18.12.050(D)(2).

b. Allow up to four dwelling units per lot if at least one dwelling unit on the lot is permanently affordable housing that meets the requirements of TMC 18.12.050(D)(6).

2. There shall be no more than two accessory dwelling units per lot in conjunction with a principal residential structure.

~~*Two accessory dwelling units are allowed on all principal lots and are subject to the same regulations as a principal unit.*~~

~~*3. Accessory dwelling units count towards the dwelling unit allowance.*~~

~~*43. The standards of TMC 18.12.050(D) do not apply to lots less than 1,000 square feet.*~~

~~*54. A sleeping unit in co-living housing is calculated as one-quarter of a dwelling unit for purposes of calculating density.*~~

~~*65. To qualify for additional units under the affordable housing provisions of TMC 18.12.050(D)(1)(b), the required number of affordable housing dwelling units shall meet the permanently affordable housing standards in TMC 18.42.170.*~~

[...]

18.14.050 Development standards.

Development in the MDR medium density residential zone district must meet the following requirements:

[...]

D. Dwelling Unit Allowance.

1. Density on individual lots in the MDR medium density residential zone district can be exceeded to meet the dwelling unit allowance as follows:

a. Allow up to two dwelling units per lot, except for accessory dwelling units, which are subject to TMC 18.14.050(D)(2).

b. Allow up to four dwelling units per lot if at least one dwelling unit on the lot is permanently affordable housing that meets the requirements of TMC 18.14.050(D)(6).

2. There shall be no more than two accessory dwelling units per lot in conjunction with a principal residential structure.

~~Two accessory dwelling units are allowed on all principal lots and are subject to the same regulations as a principal unit.~~

~~3. Accessory dwelling units count towards the dwelling unit allowance.~~

~~43. The standards of TMC 18.14.050(D) do not apply to lots less than 1,000 square feet.~~

~~54. A sleeping unit in co-living housing is calculated as one-quarter of a dwelling unit for purposes of calculating density.~~

~~65. To qualify for additional units under the affordable housing provisions of TMC 18.14.050(D)(1)(b), the required number of affordable housing dwelling units shall meet the permanently affordable housing standards in TMC 18.42.170.~~

E. Lot coverage, maximum impervious surface: seventy percent of total area of the lot.

[...]

18.16.050 Development standards.

Development in the HDR high density residential zone district must meet the following requirements:

[...]

D. Dwelling Unit Allowance.

1. Density on individual lots in the HDR high density residential zone district can be exceeded the dwelling unit allowance as follows:

a. Allow up to two dwelling units per lot, except for accessory dwelling units, which are subject to TMC 18.16.050(D)(2).

b. Allow up to four dwelling units per lot if at least one dwelling unit on the lot is permanently affordable housing that meets the requirements of TMC 18.16.050(D)(5).

2. There shall be no more than two accessory dwelling units per lot in conjunction with a principal residential structure.

~~Two accessory dwelling units are allowed on all principal lots and are subject to the same regulations as a principal unit.~~

~~3. Accessory dwelling units count towards the dwelling unit allowance.~~

43. A sleeping unit in co-living housing is calculated as one-quarter of a dwelling unit for purposes of calculating density.

54. To qualify for additional units under the affordable housing provisions of TMC 18.16.050(D)(1)(b), the required number of affordable housing dwelling units shall meet the permanently affordable housing standards in TMC 18.42.170.

[...]

18.42.010 Accessory dwelling units.

It is the specific purpose and intent of allowing accessory dwelling units within the RSR residential/sensitive resource, LDR low density residential, MDR medium density, HDR high density residential, and BD brewery district zone districts, to provide the opportunity and encouragement for the development of small housing units designed, in particular, to meet the housing needs of persons of low and moderate incomes who might otherwise have difficulty finding homes within Tumwater. Furthermore, it is the purpose and intent of this provision to allow the more efficient use of Tumwater's existing stock of dwellings and accessory buildings to provide economic support of present resident families of limited income, and to protect and preserve property values. To help achieve these goals and to promote the other objectives of this title, the following specific standards are set forth for such accessory dwelling unit uses:

[...]

E. An accessory dwelling unit, together with the principal residential structure with which it is associated, shall conform to the provisions of this chapter and all other applicable codes and ordinances. The requirements of TMC Title 18 Zoning and the city of Tumwater citywide design guidelines shall not be more restrictive than the requirements for a principal residential structure.

[...]

C. Child Care Centers

The state legislature approved ESSB 5509 on July 7, 2025, which stated that cities “must allow child care centers, and the conversion of existing buildings for use as child care centers, as an outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones, light industrial zones, and open space zones.”

Child care centers are defined in TMC 18.04.030 as “...a person or agency that provides care for thirteen or more children during part of the twenty-four-hour day.”

Currently, child care centers are a conditional use in all residential zone districts, a permitted use in commercial zone districts, and a conditional use in the LI Light Industrial and ARI Airport Related Industry zone districts.

The amendments address the new state regulations.

Code Sections to be amended:

- TMC 18.07.010, Residential Zone Districts Permitted and Conditional Uses
- TMC 18.08.020, Permitted Uses.
- TMC 18.08.040, Conditional Uses.
- TMC 18.12.020, Permitted Uses.
- TMC 18.12.040, Conditional Uses.
- TMC 18.14.020, Permitted Uses.
- TMC 18.14.040, Conditional Uses.
- TMC 18.16.020, Permitted Uses.
- TMC 18.16.040, Conditional Uses.
- TMC 18.49.020, Permitted Uses
- TMC 18.49.040, Conditional Uses
- TMC 18.52.040, Child Day Care Center

Proposed amendment language:

18.07.010, Residential Zone Districts Permitted and Conditional Uses

18.08.020, Permitted Uses.

18.08.040, Conditional Uses.

18.12.020, Permitted Uses.

18.12.040, Conditional Uses.

18.14.020, Permitted Uses.

18.14.040, Conditional Uses.

18.16.020, Permitted Uses.

18.16.040, Conditional Uses.

18.49.020, Permitted Uses

18.49.040, Conditional Uses

Change Child Care Centers from a conditional to a permitted use in all residential zone districts.

18.52.040 Child day care center.

A child day care center may be allowed in the designated zone districts as follows:

A. A child day care center may be allowed in ~~the RSR residential/sensitive resource, LDR low density residential, MDR medium density residential, HDR, high density residential, or HI heavy industrial~~ ~~HI~~ zone districts only upon issuance of a conditional use permit pursuant to TMC Chapter 18.56 and subject to the following requirements:

- 1. Meet Washington State child day care licensing requirements;*
- 2. Install an approved fire sprinkler system;*
- 3. Possess a valid child day care business license from the city;*
- 4. No structural or decorative alteration, which will alter the residential character of an existing residential structure used for a child care center, is permitted. Any new or remodeled structure must be designed to be compatible with the residential character of the surrounding neighborhood;*
- 5. Be located so that access streets and parking and/or loading areas are sufficient to accommodate safely the number of vehicle trips associated with the day care use.*

B. A child day care center may be allowed in RSR residential/sensitive resource, LDR low density residential, MDR medium density residential, HDR high density residential, and MHP manufactured home park zone districts subject to the following requirements:

- 1. Meet Washington State child day care licensing requirements;*
- 2. Install an approved fire sprinkler system;*
- 3. Possess a valid child day care business license from the city;*
- 4. No structural or decorative alteration, which will alter the residential character of an existing residential structure used for a child care center, is permitted. Any new or remodeled structure must be designed to be compatible with the residential character of the surrounding neighborhood;*
- 5. Be located so that access streets and parking and/or loading areas are sufficient to accommodate safely the number of vehicle trips associated with the day care use.*

CB. A child care center is a permitted use in TC town center, NC neighborhood commercial, MU mixed use, GC general commercial, CS community services, LI light industrial, HC historic commercial, and ARI airport related industry zone districts subject to the following requirements:

- 1. Meet Washington State child care licensing requirements;*
- 2. Install an approved fire sprinkler system;*
- 3. Possess a valid child day care business license from the city.*

***DE.** Limitations in Use of a Family Residence. No child day care center shall be located in a private family residence unless the portion of the residence where the children have access is used exclusively for the children during the hours the center is in operation, or is separate from the usual living quarters of the family.*

D. Signage

The amendments narrow the type of conditional exemptions to the sign code and clarify when an increase in the allowable square footage for wall signs on large commercial or industrial buildings may be approved by the community development director for large commercial or industrial buildings.

Code Sections to be amended:

- TMC 18.44.075, Conditional Exemptions
- TMC 18.44.155, Multiple Building Complexes, Multiple Tenant Buildings, and Large Commercial or Industrial Buildings

Proposed amendment language:

18.44.075 Conditional exemptions.

Except to the extent that permits may be required under the International Building Code, the following signs are conditionally exempt from the permit requirements of this chapter, but they shall be included in the computation of sign size area for regulated signs. An application for a conditionally exempt sign must be completed on forms available at the community development department and accompanied by a fee as established by resolution of the city council. The application shall require such information as deemed necessary by the community development director, including but not limited to specific location and sign design.

A. Signs ~~flush mounted or painted directly on the wall of a building, or erected against the wall of a building parallel to the wall;~~

[...]

18.44.155 Multiple building complexes, multiple tenant buildings, and large commercial or industrial buildings.

The following regulations shall apply to all freestanding signs located within multiple building complexes, or intended to serve multiple tenant buildings; and further shall apply to wall signs installed upon large commercial or industrial buildings having more than fifty thousand square feet of floor area:

A. One freestanding sign for a multiple building complex or a multiple tenant building may be located within yard setback areas; provided, that it is part of an overall landscaping plan and it is not determined by the city to create a sight distance hazard. Any such sign in a yard setback area may exceed the height limits set forth in TMC 18.44.040, but it must conform to all other height restrictions in the underlying zone district.

B. Any freestanding sign for a multiple building complex or multiple tenant building located outside yard setback areas may exceed the maximum freestanding sign size restrictions set forth in TMC 18.44.150 by thirty-five percent; provided, that the sign is a part of a consistent signage plan for the entire site.

C. For multiple building complexes or multiple tenant buildings having more than fifty thousand square feet of floor area, monument signs not exceeding forty percent of the size of the principal freestanding sign may be located at any other site entrance intended for use by the general public. These monument signs are permitted in addition to the freestanding sign allowed in subsection A of this section, and shall not be included in the overall sign size computation for the development.

D. In addition to the allowable square footage for wall signs set forth in TMC 18.44.150, an increase in the allowable square footage for wall signs on large commercial or industrial buildings may be approved by the community development director to the limits described below; ~~provided, that an equivalent reduction of allowable open square footage for freestanding signs (pole and monument) is agreed to in writing by the building owner.~~

Building Area	Percentage of Additional Wall Sign Area
<u>Greater than or equal to</u> >50,000 sq. ft.	Up to 15% additional wall sign area
<u>Greater than or equal to</u> >75,000 sq. ft.	Up to 20% additional wall sign area
<u>Greater than or equal to</u> >100,000 sq. ft.	Up to 25% additional wall sign area

If such buildings have more than one public facade or contains multiple businesses, the allowable square footage for individual wall signs may be combined on a single public facade or distributed among the various facades; provided, that the total square footage of wall signs does not exceed twenty percent of the public facade upon which the sign is placed.

E. In addition to the allowable square footage for wall signs above, additional wall signage up to the amount allowable for multiple public facades on the same building may be installed on one other building facade other than a public facade; provided, that the total square footage of wall signs on the additional facade does not exceed twenty percent of either the public facade or the other wall upon which the sign is placed. A second wall sign on a side that is not the public facade may be allowed if the square footage of the building is over one hundred and fifty thousand square feet.

<u>Building Area</u>		<u>Percentage of Additional Wall Sign Area</u>
<u><i>Less than or equal to 150,000 sq. ft.</i></u>	<u><i>A building must have more than one public facade or contain multiple businesses.</i></u>	<u><i>One additional wall sign allowed no larger than 20% of the public facade or wall which the sign is placed.</i></u>
<u><i>Greater than 150,000 sq. ft.</i></u>	<u><i>A building must have more than one public facade or contain multiple businesses.</i></u>	<u><i>Two additional wall signs allowed no larger than 20% of the public facade or wall which the sign is placed</i></u>

F. Interstate 5 Wall Signage. For multiple building complexes or multiple tenant buildings having more than one-hundred fifty thousand square feet of floor area, one building located along Interstate 5 is allowed to have one wall sign on the side of the building facing Interstate 5. The size of the wall sign shall not exceed twenty percent of the main public facade.

E. Essential Public Facilities.

The Governor signed 2E2SSB 5536 on May 16, 2023, which added “opioid treatment facilities” to the list of essential public facilities that City is required to allow to be sited in the community. The Governor signed ESSB 5801 on May 20, 2025, which added “Improvements to high capacity transportation systems” to the list of essential public facilities that City is required to allow to be sited in the community. Other amendments to the state’s list of essential public facilities have occurred in recent years.

The proposed amendments bring the City’s essential public facilities regulations into compliance with state law.

Code Sections to be amended:

- TMC 18.56.140, “E” uses

Proposed amendment language:

18.56.140 “E” uses.
“Essential public facilities”

A. *The following uses are considered essential public facilities, which shall require a conditional use permit as indicated in each individual zone. Additionally, the siting process outlined in subsection B of this section shall be followed.*

1. Airports.
2. State education facilities.
3. ~~Large-scale~~ State or regional state or regional transportation facilities as defined in RCW 47.06.140.
4. Regional transit authority facilities as defined in RCW 81.112.020.
5. Improvements to high capacity transportation systems as defined in RCW 81.104.015, bus rapid transit routes and stops or improvements to such routes and stops. "Bus rapid transit" means a fixed route bus system that features assets indicating permanent, high capacity service including, but not limited to, elevated platforms or enhanced stations, off-board fare collection, dedicated lanes, busways, or transit signal priority.
46. Prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities (including but not limited to: jails; juvenile detention facilities; prisons and prerelease facilities; work release facilities).
57. Solid waste handling facilities including organic materials management facilities.
68. Opioid treatment programs including both mobile and fixed-site medication units, recovery residences, harm reduction programs excluding safe injection sites. Harm reduction programs mean programs that emphasize working directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of those served, and offer low threshold options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other services.
9. Inpatient facilities including substance ~~abuse~~ use disorder treatment facilities (including but not limited to: intensive inpatient facilities; long-term residential drug treatment facilities; recovery house facilities).
710. Mental health facilities (including but not limited to: congregate care facilities; adult residential treatment facilities; evaluation and treatment centers).
811. Sewage treatment facilities (not including individual or community wastewater treatment systems).
912. Emergency communication towers and antennas.
103. Secure community transition facilities as defined on RCW 71.09.020.

B. *Essential public facilities identified as conditional uses in the zone district shall be subject, at a minimum, to the following requirements:*

1. *Essential public facilities classified as follows:*

- a. Type One. Multicounty facilities. These are major facilities serving or potentially affecting more than one county. These facilities include, but are not limited to, regional transportation facilities, such as regional airports; state correction facilities; and state education facilities.*
- b. Type Two. These are local or interlocal facilities serving or potentially affecting residents or property in more than one jurisdiction. They could include, but are not limited to, county jails, county landfills, organic material management facilities, community colleges, sewage treatment facilities, emergency communication towers and antennas, secure community transition facilities, and inpatient facilities (e.g., substance abuse facilities, mental health facilities, and group homes).*
- (Note: Such facilities, which would not have impacts beyond the jurisdiction in which they are proposed to be located, would be type three facilities.)*
- c. Type Three. These are facilities serving or potentially affecting only the jurisdiction in which they are proposed to be located.*

In order to enable the city to determine the project's classification, the applicant shall identify the proposed service area of the facility and the approximate area within which the proposed project could potentially have adverse impacts, such as increased traffic, public safety risks, noise, glare, emissions, or other environmental impacts.

2. Provide early notification and involvement of affected citizens and jurisdictions as follows:

- a. Type One and Two Facilities. At least ninety days before submitting an application for a type one or type two essential public facility, the prospective applicant shall notify the affected public and jurisdictions of the general type and nature of the proposal, identify sites under consideration for accommodating the proposed facility, and identify opportunities to comment on the proposal. Applications for specific projects shall not be considered complete in the absence of proof of a published notice regarding the proposed project in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected area. This notice shall include the information described above and shall be published at least ninety days prior to the submission of the application.*

It is expected that an environmental impact statement may be required for most type one and type two facilities in accordance with the SEPA environmental review process.

The Thurston Regional Planning Council may provide the project sponsor and affected jurisdictions with their comments or recommendations regarding alternative project locations during this ninety-day period.

(Note: The purpose of this provision is to enable potentially affected jurisdictions and the public to review and comment collectively on alternative sites for major facilities before the project sponsor has made their siting decision.)

- b. *Type Three Facilities. Type three essential public facilities are subject to the city’s standard notification requirements for conditional uses.*
- 3. *Should any of the above-listed facilities be proposed to be sited in the city, they should be consistent with the intent of the underlying zoning of the proposed site.*
- 4. *Essential public facilities shall not have any probable significant adverse impact on critical areas or resource lands, except for lineal facilities, such as highways, where no feasible alternative exists (adapted from county-wide Policy 5.2(a)).*
- 5. *Major public facilities, which generate substantial traffic, should be sited near major transportation corridors (adapted from county-wide Policy 5.2(b)).*
- 6. *Applicants for type one essential public facilities shall provide an analysis of the alternative sites considered for the proposed facility. This analysis shall include the following:*
 - a. *An evaluation of the site’s capability to meet basic siting criteria for the proposed facility, such as size, physical characteristics, access, and availability of necessary utilities and support services;*
 - b. *An explanation of the need for the proposed facility in the proposed location;*
 - c. *The site’s relationship to the service area and the distribution of other similar public facilities within the service area or jurisdiction, whichever is larger; and*
 - d. *A general description of the relative environmental, traffic, and social impacts associated with locating the proposed facility at the alternative sites, which meet the applicant’s basic siting criteria. The applicant shall also identify proposed mitigation measures to alleviate or minimize significant potential impacts.*

The applicant shall also briefly describe the process used to identify and evaluate the alternative sites.
- 7. *The proposed project shall comply with all applicable provisions of the comprehensive plan, zoning ordinance, and other city regulations.*
- C. *The following tables shall denote Tumwater’s policies for siting and expansion of essential public facilities within existing zone districts: See Figures 18.56.140(A) and (B).*

Figure 18.56.140(A)

CITY OF TUMWATER ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITY SITING POLICIES FOR CITY ZONING																		
EPF Code	Tumwater Zone Districts																	
	RSR	LDR	MDR	HDR	MU	CBC	NC	CS	GC	TC	LI	HI	HC	GB	OS	AP	ARI	BD
A																	P	
B					C	C		C	C	C	C						C	C
C								C	C		C	C					C	C
D								C	C		C	C					C	C

CITY OF TUMWATER ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITY SITING POLICIES FOR CITY ZONING																		
EPF Code	Tumwater Zone Districts																	
	RSR	LDR	MDR	HDR	MU	CBC	NC	CS	GC	TC	LI	HI	HC	GB	OS	AP	ARI	BD
<u>E</u>								C	C		C	C					C	C
<u>FD</u>								C(3) (4)			C(3) (4)	C(3) (4)					C(3) (4)	
<u>GE</u>											C	C					C	
<u>H</u>			C	C	C	C	C		C									
<u>IF</u>			C	C	C	C	C		C									
<u>JG</u>			C	C	C	C	C		C									
<u>KH</u>											C	C					C	
<u>LJ</u>		C	C	C	C		C	C	C	C(1)	C	C					C	
<u>MJ</u>											C(2)							
<u>N</u>								C	C		C	C						

Figure 18.56.140(A) Footnotes:

“C” means conditional use; “P” means permitted use.

Shaded areas mean use is not permitted.

Figure 18.56.140(A) Explanatory Notes:

(1) In the TC town center zone district, emergency communication antennas must be affixed to or erected upon existing buildings, water tanks, or other existing structures. Antennas shall not be affixed to a wireless communication support structure. Emergency communication towers are not permitted.

(2) “Secure community transition facilities” shall meet the following conditions:

A. Minimum Conditions.

1. Location.

a. In no case may a secure community transition facility be sited adjacent to, immediately across a street or parking lot from, or within the line of sight of risk potential activities or facilities in existence at the time a site is listed for consideration. “Within the line of sight” means that it is possible to reasonably visually distinguish and recognize individuals;

b. In no case may a secure community transition facility be sited within three hundred feet of a residential zone district;

c. Secure community transition facilities are permitted as a conditional use in the LI light industrial zone district excluding LI light industrial zone districts north of Sapp Road Southwest and west of Crosby Boulevard Southwest;

2. *Compliance with Statutory Requirements. The applicant shall provide verification from the Department of Social and Health Services that the proposed facility complies with all applicable state regulations and requirements pursuant to Chapter 71.09 RCW. Where the requirements of this section conflict with the state requirements, the state requirements shall be adhered to over this section;*

3. *A maximum of three beds for sexually violent predators may be located within any secure community transition facility.*

B. *Process Requirements. In addition to the standard public notification requirements, all property owners and residents within one-half mile of the proposed project site shall be sent notice of the public hearing regarding the requested conditional use.*

(3) *“Juvenile detention facilities” shall meet the following conditions:*

A. *Minimum Conditions.*

1. *Location.*

a. *Buildings accommodating juvenile detention facilities shall not be located closer than two hundred feet from the boundary of a district in which the use is not allowed as a conditional use;*

b. *Juvenile detention facilities shall be located such that outside law enforcement officers can respond to a call for assistance within five minutes under typical conditions;*

c. *Advance life support service, as defined in RCW 18.73.030(19), must be available within five minutes under typical conditions;*

2. *Security.*

a. *The applicant shall submit a security plan, reviewed by the police chief, which at a minimum complies with applicable American Corrections Association’s security standards for juvenile detention facilities. This plan shall identify staffing levels and scheduling, building security, and escape search plan, and provisions for immediate public notification of escapes;*

3. *Design.*

a. *Size. Juvenile detention facilities with capacity for up to seventy-five inmates shall be located on a site of at least five acres. Sites shall contain an additional four acres for each additional fifty-bed increase in capacity above this threshold;*

b. *Setbacks. The facility shall be set back at least seventy-five feet from public rights-of-way and property lines;*

4. *Landscaping/Buffers.*

a. *The applicant shall submit a landscaping plan, which serves to maintain or enhance the character of the area without jeopardizing security. This plan*

shall incorporate at least a twenty-five-foot landscaping buffer along public rights-of-way;

b. The applicant shall install an eight-foot-high fence in character with the neighborhood between the facilities and all property boundaries, with the exception of the landscaped street frontage, which effectively screens the site from adjacent properties. The hearing examiner may waive or lessen this requirement if he/she determines that, due to existing site features or the type of character of adjoining uses, the privacy and security of the occupants of adjoining properties can be maintained in the absence of a fence or with a lower fence;

c. Barbed wire topped fencing shall not be visible from public rights-of-way;

d. Outdoor activity areas located in residential districts shall not be visible from public rights-of-way or adjacent properties;

5. Noise.

a. The hearing examiner may require conditions to minimize potential noise impacts including, but not limited to, altering the locations of outdoor use areas and noise-generating facilities, and installations of noise reducing elements such as walls, berms, and landscaping;

6. Access.

a. Juvenile detention facilities shall have direct access to an arterial or collector unless the hearing examiner determines that access via lesser classifications of street would not be detrimental to neighborhood character and would not increase public safety risks.

B. Process Requirements. *Property owners within one thousand four hundred feet of the proposed project site shall be sent notice of the public hearing regarding the requested conditional use.*

(4) “Work release facilities” shall meet the following conditions:

A. Minimum Conditions.

1. General Requirements.

a. The applicant shall provide verification from the Department of Corrections (DOC) that the proposed facility complies with DOC standards and applicable state and local regulations;

b. The site must be within one-quarter mile of public transportation or an alternative transportation program, approved by the hearing examiner, must be provided to serve the needs of the facility’s occupants;

2. Location.

- a. *Work release facilities shall not be located closer than five hundred feet from the boundary of a district in which the use is not allowed as a conditional use;*
- b. *Setbacks. The facility shall be set back at least seventy-five feet from public rights-of-way and property lines;*
- c. *Landscaping/Buffers.*
 - i. *The applicant shall submit a landscaping plan, which serves to maintain or enhance the character of the area without jeopardizing security. This plan shall incorporate at least a twenty-five-foot landscaping buffer along public rights-of-way;*
 - ii. *The applicant shall install an eight-foot-high fence in character with the neighborhood between the facilities and all property boundaries, with the exception of the landscaped street frontage, which effectively screens the site from adjacent properties. The hearing examiner may waive or lessen this requirement if he/she determines that, due to existing site features or the type of character of adjoining uses, the privacy and security of the occupants of adjoining properties can be maintained in the absence of a fence or with a lower fence;*
- d. *Noise.*
 - i. *The hearing examiner may require conditions to minimize potential noise impacts including, but not limited to, altering the locations of outdoor use areas and noise generating facilities, and installations of noise reducing elements such as walls, berms, and landscaping;*
- e. *Access.*
 - i. *The proposed site shall have direct access to an arterial or collector unless the hearing examiner determines that access via a lesser classification of street would not be detrimental to neighborhood character and would not increase public safety risks.*

B. *Process Requirements. Property owners within one thousand four hundred feet of the proposed project site shall be sent notice of the public hearing regarding the requested conditional use.*

LEGEND

<i>RSR – Residential/Sensitive Resource</i>	<i>NC – Neighborhood Commercial</i>	<i>LI – Light Industrial</i>
<i>LDR – Low Density Residential</i>	<i>CS – Community Services</i>	<i>HI – Heavy Industrial</i>
<i>MDR – Medium Density Residential</i>	<i>ARI – Airport Related Industrial</i>	<i>HC – Historic Commercial</i>
<i>HDR – High Density Residential</i>	<i>AP – Airport Overlay</i>	<i>GB – Greenbelt</i>
<i>MU – Mixed Use</i>	<i>GC – General Commercial</i>	<i>OS – Open Space</i>

LEGEND

CBC – Capitol Boulevard Community

TC – Town Center

BD – Brewery District

Figure 18.56.140(B)

CITY OF TUMWATER LIST OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITIES	
Essential Public Facility Code	Essential Public Facility
A	Airports.
B	State education facilities.
C	Large scale State or regional transportation facilities <u>as defined in RCW 47.06.140.</u>
<u>D</u>	<u>Regional transit authority facilities as defined in RCW 81.112.020.</u>
<u>E</u>	<u>Improvements to high capacity transportation systems as defined in RCW 81.104.015, bus rapid transit routes and stops or improvements to such routes and stops. "Bus rapid transit" means a fixed route bus system that features assets indicating permanent, high capacity service including, but not limited to, elevated platforms or enhanced stations, off-board fare collection, dedicated lanes, busways, or transit signal priority.</u>
D <u>E</u>	Prisons, jails, and other correctional facilities (including but not limited to: jails; juvenile detention facilities; prisons and prerelease facilities; work release facilities).
E <u>G</u>	Solid waste handling facilities including organic materials management facilities.
<u>H</u>	<u>Opioid treatment programs including both mobile and fixed-site medication units, recovery residences, harm reduction programs excluding safe injection sites. Harm reduction programs mean programs that emphasize working directly with people who use drugs to prevent overdose and infectious disease transmission, improve the physical, mental, and social well-being of those served, and offer low threshold options for accessing substance use disorder treatment and other services.</u>
F <u>I</u>	Inpatient facilities including substance abuse <u>use disorder treatment</u> facilities (including but not limited to: intensive inpatient facilities; long-term residential drug treatment facilities; recovery house facilities).
G <u>J</u>	Mental health facilities (including but not limited to: congregate care facilities; adult residential treatment facilities; evaluation and treatment centers).
H <u>K</u>	Sewage treatment facilities (not including individual or community wastewater treatment systems).
I <u>L</u>	Emergency communication towers and antennas.
J <u>M</u>	Secure community transition facilities <u>as defined in RCW 71.09.020.</u>

<i>CITY OF TUMWATER LIST OF ESSENTIAL PUBLIC FACILITIES</i>	
<i>Essential Public Facility Code</i>	<i>Essential Public Facility</i>
<i>*N</i>	<i>Other facilities designated by the Washington State Office of Financial Management as essential public facilities.</i>

2. Public Approval Process

An Environmental Checklist for a non-project action is expected to be prepared in February 2026 under the State Environmental Policy Act (Chapter 43.21C RCW), pursuant to Chapter 197-11 WAC, and a Determination of Non-Significance is expected to be issued in February 2026.

The ordinance is expected to be sent to the Washington State Department of Commerce in February 2026 for their required 60-day review before the proposed text amendments are adopted, in accordance with RCW 36.70A.106.

The Planning Commission will receive a briefing on the proposed code amendments on February 24, 2026, and is expected to hold a work session on the proposed code amendments March 10, 2026.

A Notice of Public Hearing for the Planning Commission is expected to be issued on March 13, 2026, prior to a public hearing. The notice will be posted, published as a press release, distributed to interested individuals and entities that have requested such notices, and published in The Olympian.

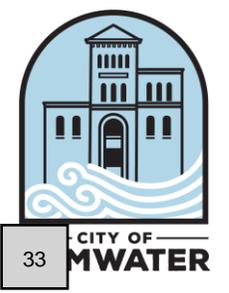
The Planning Commission is expected to hold a public hearing on the proposed amendments on March 24, 2026. Following the public hearing and deliberations, the Planning Commission is expected to recommend that Council consider the proposed amendments.

The City Council is scheduled to review the Planning Commission’s recommendation on the proposed amendments on April 28, 2026. The City Council is scheduled to consider the proposed amendments on May 5, 2026.

3. Staff Contacts

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2026 Housekeeping Amendments



Planning Commission Briefing, February 24, 2026

Background

- During 2025 and 2026, staff gathered information on proposed minor development code housekeeping amendments to the Tumwater Municipal Code to be considered collectively in 2026
- The proposed amendments are intended make minor corrections to the City's development regulations



Staff Report

For each amendment, the staff report includes:

- Summary of the amendment
- Code section(s) to be amended
- Proposed amendment language



Amendments

1. Building Demolition
2. Housing – State Department of Commerce
3. Child Care Centers
4. Signage
5. Essential Public Facilities



Building Demolition

- Amendments to TMC 15.50 *Building Demolition* to clarify that removal of foundations is a part of the building demotion process
- Currently, the code does not address the removal of foundations during demolition, and this has been an issue that results in health and safety concerns



Housing – State Department of Commerce

Amendments to Title 18 *Zoning* to address State Department of Commerce comments dated January 12, 2026, concerning accessory dwelling units

- Ensuring that ADUs are defined consistent with a dwelling unit located on the same lot as a single-family housing unit, duplex, triplex, townhome or other housing unit
- Allowing two ADUs with the principal structure consistent with state law
- Clarifying that zoning and design review requirements for ADUs are not more restrictive than those for the principal units



Child Care Centers

- Amendments to Title 18 *Zoning* to address ESSB 5509 (2025), which stated that cities:

“...must allow child care centers, and the conversion of existing buildings for use as child care centers, as an outright permitted use in all zones except industrial zones, light industrial zones, and open space zones.”

- Child care centers are defined in TMC 18.04.030 as:

“...a person or agency that provides care for thirteen or more children during part of the twenty-four-hour day.



Child Care Centers

- Currently, child care centers are a conditional use in all residential zone districts, a permitted use in commercial zone districts, and a conditional use in the LI Light Industrial and ARI Airport Related Industry zone districts
- Amendments would allow child care center as permitted uses in all zone districts, except for LI Light Industrial and ARI Airport Related Industry zone districts



Signage

- Amendments to TMC 18.44.075 to narrow the type of conditional exemptions to the sign code
- Amendments to TMC 18.44.155 to clarify when an increase in the allowable square footage for wall signs on large commercial or industrial buildings may be approved by the community development director for large commercial or industrial buildings

Currently, the number of signs and the square footage of allowed signage is not related to the size of a building or location relative to Interstate 5



Essential Public Facilities

Amendments to TMC 18.56 are intended to bring the City's essential public facilities regulations into compliance with state law:

- 2E2SSB 5536 (2023) added “opioid treatment facilities” to the list of essential public facilities that City is required to allow to be sited in the community
- ESSB 5801 (2025) added “Improvements to high capacity transportation systems” to the list of essential public facilities
- Other amendments to the state's list of essential public facilities have occurred in recent years



Next Steps

