

**City Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 11, 2025**

**Minutes**

**WORK SESSION**

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

**PRESENT**

Councilmember Linda Gotovac

Councilmember Elaine Klamn

Councilmember John O'Callahan

Councilmember Jason Lawton

Councilmember Jeff Eisel

Mayor Watterson presented Mike Marshall from Gibbs and Olsen to present the details for the coming Public Hearing on the Tenino Water System Update and Water Use Efficiency Goals.

Mike Marshall it has been a long road getting here but we are almost there. The big thing is getting it done and you have this tool to address any growth and new connections. So there are certain requirements that the Dept. of Health does mandate that you do. First is a Public Hearing to discuss the Water Efficiency Goals because we are over 10% loss of water and if you are over 10% then you have to establish goals to get under 10% loss of water. You need to adopt a goal and the goal would be to reducing the average demand by about 10% over the next 10 year period. Mayor Watterson said that is the water reduction 10% in 10 years correct and there are things we have and can do to meet that goal like give out low flow devices and even do a better job at fixing leaks to help with usage reduction. Mike said part of that is you have to adopt measures that you have to implement so you can meet that goal and those infrastructures. You bring in a structure for single family customers and structure for your commercial customers, those you already have in place, it's a tiered system meaning the more you use the more you pay, your disincentivizes to use a lot of water. The automatic meter reading with an alert customers on losses and to fix things like leaky toilet and broken faucets, stuff like that. That should have been started in 2022 and your moving ahead with that. There is 100 gallons a day of reclaimed water at the plant and you could potentially evaluate if it is cost effective to distribute that water to offset possible water use. Those are four measures that you are already working on or that can placate how you have a plan on how you are going to reduce your water use by 10%. So you present that in a public hearing and you'll solicit any comments from the audience and the city and the other part of the public hearing is to solicit comments from the Public concerning the Draft Water Plan which has been on the website since October. We adopt it tonight. At that point you close the Public Hearing and vote and continue on with your regular meeting. Once that is voted on and approved then they can submit the revised draft back to Health. If you word the motion that you are approving the Draft Water System Plan and you don't expect any changes on the that is sufficient. Can we change the officers to 2025 personnel and date stamp. This is the draft, before we submit the Final it will need to be updated. Adopt with the changes of the current personnel. The service area is the existing city limits of the water treatment plant, it includes the AG park. Councilmember O'Callahan asked if it need a second reading? Mike responded no, it is not an ordinance so it is a one go around. It just has to have a public

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hearing, it has been on our website and we published a Public Hearing Notice to the newspaper. Mayor says we will get our Public Hearing done and put it on the Agenda.

Clerk Treasurer Nancy Reddick to go over the Levy Lid Limitations worksheet and the budget so we have kind of an idea before we go ahead.

Levy Limitations: C/T Reddick went over with Thurston County and they sent it back stating it was correct with a few minor corrections However, as she understands it the Fire Districts Levy passed so the numbers are going to change on this. She just got them yesterday so she will have new numbers for the Council at the next meeting. Should be able to send it out well before then. The highest lawful levy will be about 187 in stead of 215, you're going to see that on Pg 1, # 1 of the worksheet. 2.1528 that is going to change to about a 1.87 because of the fire department and limit of 360 and we are senior taxing in the district so if theirs goes up ours go down because of the limit is 360. So if theirs goes up to 150 ours goes down. Currently the highest lawful levy this coming year is 339,289.25, she is not sure that will change. Our change for the ordinance is \$368.96.

2026 Annual Budget: Highlights on the revenues, not the expenditures tonight. 2025 Budget beginning balance was double what it actually was and will effect everything down the line. The beginning balance for 2026 with the projections she sees now is approximately \$40,000.00 that can change depending on if we don't spend that projected for November or December this year or if we bring in more revenue. Which is unlikely as projected. Included is a 1.5 from COLA additional 18,000.00 in payroll. The admin Court Clerk Position is being filed part time rather than full time. With our district court services going to Thurston County, that contract is \$20,000.00/yr which is less that half of the previous Court Clerks salary. Public Works had put in for another full time employee, this will only affect our general budget, only about 10-15% of their wages will go there. Law Enforcement is mid application for that grant from the state. If grant is received they are solely for law enforcement. We filled the officer position that officer Johnson left in February replaced with office Sneed. Police Chief needs a new vehicle. She would like everyone to look over the revenues. Our starting balance was high at 700,000.00 due to the estimate of potentially needing to transfer funds but did not use that. We tried to be conservative and kept the estimates low. The ending balance is just an estimate since there will be new numbers by the end of the year.

Jody with the Tenino Food Bank. Snap has taken a pretty big hit with our people, mostly our Seniors. From Sept - Oct 55 and over went from 780 to 852 served. There are a number of things going on to help alleviate that, we were able to procure some of the money when the Governor released some funds because we take care of federal food. The fight with this is the gas is costly and the maintenance on the vehicles is costly and you can't just get food, it has to be picked up and that takes money. They were able to use some of this money to help with that along with food. If the majority of our people that lose their insurance then they are using the money they would use for food to pay for the insurance. They supplied 63 families today. A large amount of senior and large families is increasing. They are trying to make sure the flow through is as smooth as possible and getting people of the roadways quickly. The warehouse, just about have the heat in, then insulation, then electrical and some plumbing. King 5 Food Drive are coming out to the food bank on 10AM on Thursday. Food bank is partnering with the Eagles, offering a Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

PRESENT

Councilmember Linda Gotovac

Councilmember Elaine Klamn

Councilmember John O'Callahan

Councilmember Jason Lawton

Councilmember Jeff Eisel

Flag salute

#### **AGENDA APPROVAL**

1. Agenda Approval

**Recommended Action:** Motion to approve the 11/11/2025 agenda as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Gotovac, Seconded by Councilmember Klamn.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes: 5/0.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

2. Approval of Minutes

**Recommended Action:** Motion to approve the 10/28/2025 minutes as presented.

Motion made by Councilmember Gotovac, Seconded by Councilmember Klamn.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

Motion passes: 5/0.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

3. Consent Calendar for October 29, 2025 through November 11, 2025 consisting of:

Payroll EFT's in the amount of \$74,428.01 and Claims Checks #33670 through #33689 and EFT's in the amount of \$165,861.12 for a Grand Total of \$240,289.13.

Liquor License Renewals: None

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

Motion made by Councilmember Gotovac, Seconded by Councilmember Klamn.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

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Motion passes: 5/0.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

## PRESENTATIONS

None.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Champagne owner of Castle Realty wanted to address a recent Facebook post from Mayor Watterson on his personal page and response Councilmember Lawton post. He asked that the city to potentially discuss these types of situations behind the scenes. He asked if the city has a standard or mission statement about social media or like platforms for city representatives? He would like to see that our people communicate before going to social media. Mayor Watterson offered to meet outside of the Council Meeting to discuss further and answer further questions Mr. Champagne may have.

## PUBLIC HEARING

### 4. Ad Valorem Property Tax for fiscal year 2026.

Thurston County has provided the Assessed Valuation and Property Tax Worksheet for the purpose of calculating and the Ad Valorem Property Tax for fiscal year 2026. The City will hold two Public hearings as required by RCW 84.55 on October 28 and November 11th and is required to pass a resolution adopting the 2026 property tax by November 30, 2025.

Ordinance / Resolution No. 2025-07 (RCW 84.55.120)

**Recommended Action:** Motion to adopt an Ad Valorem Tax Levy using Highest Lawful Levy Procedures that would result in a total increase of \$368.96.

Mayor Watterson introduced C/T Nancy Reddick to speak on behalf of the City explaining the Tax Levy.

The Mayor then opened the floor to the public for comment at 7:45pm, hearing no comments from the public the hearing closed and Council comments opened, hearing none the public hearing was closed at 7:46pm.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

### 5. 2026 Annual Budget

State law provides that each municipality hold two Public Hearings prior to budget adoption in order to provide the opportunity for input by the Public. Tonight's hearing will focus primarily upon revenues for the 2026 Budget.

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**Recommended Action:** Move to accept the Administration's recommendations on the 2026 budget revenues as presented.

Mayor Watterson introduced C/T Reddick to explain the expenditures for public comment. C/T Reddick states the revenues will be presented next meeting on 11/25/25, the 2nd reading including expenditures.

The Mayor opened the floor to the public comment at 7:46pm, hearing no comments, opened to the Council, hearing no comment the public hearing was closed at 7:49pm.

Motion made by Councilmember O'Callahan, Seconded by Councilmember Klamn.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

6. Tenino Water System Plan Update.

To present and approve The Tenino Water System Plan.

**Recommended Action:** Move to approve the Tenino Water System Plan.

Mayor Watterson reiterated the discussion with Mike Marshall from Gibbs and Olsen about the Tenino Water System Plan Update purpose and requirements for the Public Hearing.

The Mayor then opened the floor to public comment at 7:49pm, hearing no comments, opened to the Council, hearing no comments the public hearing was closed at 7:51pm

Motion made by Councilmember Gotovac, Seconded by Councilmember Klamn.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

7. Water Use Efficiency Goals

To present and adopt Water Use Efficiency Goals

**Recommended Action:** Move to adopt the Water Use Efficiency Goals.

Mayor Watterson reiterated the discussion with Mike Marshall from Gibbs and Olsen about the Tenino Water Use Efficiency Goals purpose and requirements for the Public Hearing.

The Mayor then opened the floor to public comment at 7:54pm, hearing no comments, opened to the Council, hearing no comments the public hearing was closed at 7:54pm

Motion made by Councilmember Klamn, Seconded by Councilmember Gotovac.

Voting Yea: Councilmember Gotovac, Councilmember Klamn, Councilmember O'Callahan, Councilmember Lawton, Councilmember Eisel.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

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None.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

None.

#### **ORDINANCES**

None.

#### **REPORTS**

##### **8. Outside Agency**

- 1) Chamber of Commerce - None.
- 2) Economic Development Council (EDC) - None.
- 3) South Thurston Economic Development Initiative (STEDI) - None.
- 4) ARCH Commission 5) Experience Olympia & Beyond (VCB) - None.
- 5) Timberland Regional Library - None.

##### **9. 13. Committees/Commissions**

- 3) Planning Commission - Meeting 11/12/2025 - continuation of the Public Hearing for the Tenino Comprehensive Plan Update.

##### **10. 14. Staff**

- 5) Clerk/Treasurer - C/T Reddick Working on audit for next meeting. Normal schedule for the audits going forward.
- 6) Mayor - reported he had a zoom meeting about expansion.

##### **11. 15. Liaisons**

- 2) Solid Waste Advisory Board - Councilmember Klamn reported on the Reuse Program April-September had 6,543 visits in that time. Solar land lease in the works. December 1st is the FixIt Fair. Looking for a new Chairman for the Solid Waste Board.
- 4) Tenino School Board - Councilmember Lawton reported that Hailey Huber went to state, Girls Soccer Team went to state and Cross Country Athletes went to state.

6) Transportation Policy Board - The Board has picked two candidates for the Chairman position.

8) Legislature - Starts back the day after New Years.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS 2**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Watterson adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.