

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF TENINO, WASHINGTON, AFFIRMING THAT PUBLIC SAFETY IS THE COUNCIL'S FIRST PRIORITY; DECLARING THAT NO PROPOSED 2027 BUDGET WILL BE ACCEPTED IF IT REDUCES FUNDING FOR THE TENINO POLICE DEPARTMENT BELOW 2026 LEVELS; ESTABLISHING A CITYWIDE SPENDING AND HIRING FREEZE WITHOUT COUNCIL AUTHORIZATION; OPPOSING ANY EFFORT TO DEFUND OR DISBAND THE TENINO POLICE DEPARTMENT; AND DIRECTING STAFF TO PREPARE AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STRUCTURAL, BUDGETARY, AND VOTER PROTECTIONS FOR THE TENINO POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the City Council of Tenino declares that ensuring public safety is its first and highest priority; and

WHEREAS, the Tenino Police Department plays a vital and essential role in maintaining public safety, enforcing the law, responding to emergencies, and fostering community trust; and

WHEREAS, adequate and stable funding for the Tenino Police Department is necessary to support operations, personnel, equipment, training, and community engagement; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that reductions in funding, staffing, or structural authority could impair the City's ability to provide appropriate public safety services during the 2027 fiscal year and beyond; and

WHEREAS, fiscal oversight and responsible governance require clear expenditure and hiring controls to ensure accountability to the residents of Tenino;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Tenino, Washington, as follows:

Section 1. Public Safety Priority.

The City Council hereby declares that public safety is a protected core governmental service and the Council's first priority.

Section 2. 2027 Budget Protection.

The Council will not accept, approve, or adopt any proposed budget for the 2027 fiscal year that reduces funding for the Tenino Police Department below the total adopted 2026 funding levels.

Section 3. Opposition to Defunding or Disbanding.

The City Council will not concede to, support, or agree with any effort to defund, diminish, dissolve, contract out, or disband the Tenino Police Department.

Section 4. Direction to Prepare Protective Ordinance.

The City Council hereby directs the City Attorney and appropriate staff to prepare and present for Council consideration an ordinance establishing the following:

A. Permanent Establishment.

1. The Tenino Police Department shall be established as a permanent department of the City.
2. The Department may not be abolished or reorganized except by duly adopted ordinance of the City Council.

B. Supermajority Requirements.

Require Council supermajority approval prior to:

1. Contracting with the county sheriff or any other jurisdictions for primary law enforcement services;
2. Entering into regional policing agreements that replace or substantially diminish the Tenino Police Department;
3. Dissolving or relinquishing local police authority.

C. Council Approval Requirements.

Require Council approval prior to:

1. Elimination of sworn or commissioned positions;
2. Reassignment of police duties to another agency;
3. Entering into interlocal agreements that replace the Tenino Police Department with another law enforcement provider;
4. Freezing funded Police Department positions;
5. Confirmation of any elimination of commissioned positions.

D. Budgetary Protections.

1. Prohibit mid-year reductions to Police Department appropriations without Council approval;
2. Restrict interfund transfers out of the Police Department budget without Council approval;
3. Require that vacancies funded in the adopted budget be filled within a defined and reasonable timeframe unless Council authorizes otherwise;
4. Establish a minimum percentage of the General Fund to be dedicated annually to law enforcement services.

E. Public Safety Reserve.

Create a restricted Public Safety Reserve Fund to be used solely for Police Department operations, staffing, equipment, and emergency response needs.

F. Transparency and Procedural Safeguards.

- 1. Require a public hearing prior to any proposed reduction to Police Department funding exceeding a defined threshold.
- 2. Require a formal fiscal and operational impact study prior to eliminating sworn positions.
- 3. Require written findings adopted by the Council before approving any reduction in Police Department funding.

G. Voter Approval Requirement.

Provide for placement of a ballot measure before the voters of Tenino requiring public approval prior to abolishing or permanently dissolving the Tenino Police Department.

Section 7. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

ADOPTED this ___ day of _____, 2026, by the City Council of Tenino, Washington.
