

Planning Commission Meeting

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rutherford convened the meeting at 6:00PM.

PRESENT

Commissioner William Bennett II
Commissioner Matthew Rounsley
Commissioner William Rutherford
Commissioner Valerie Roberts

HOUSEKEEPING

Commissioners discussed what they would like to focus on for 2026 and tackle since the Comp Plan is pretty much done, so be thinking about that. freeing up 2026. Commissioner Roberts suggested potential grants for improvements, she offered to forward any to the Commissioners that the City could potentially put in for. Items of topic were crosswalks and roundabouts, there have been discussions and a downtown plan in the past regarding roundabouts and might be worth looking at again and look at the process as other cities implement them this year, Yelm is to be putting in three and there is curiosity for what momentum it will allow since one is on Hwy 507 and those are all state dollars and if we can use that for lobbying to continue on the interstate.

Discussions regarding housing, ADU's, and temporary options for people who need family assistance. If Air BNB's and a Hotel could be something our city could house? Air BNB's have not been approved in the past and there is not any land available that would be suitable for a Hotel.

Commissioners were curious about an update at the AG Park and what's happening there and what the next steps are with the Colvin's. Mayor Watterson reported that there is a Pre-Application Conference happening in the next few weeks once they get everyone's schedules coordinated.

1. Agenda Approval

Recommended Action: Motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Commissioner Rounsley, Seconded by Commissioner Roberts.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Bennett II, Commissioner Rounsley, Commissioner Rutherford, Commissioner Roberts.

Motion passes: 4/0.

2. Meeting Minutes Approval

Recommended Action: Motion to approve 12/10/2025 meeting minutes as presented.

Commissioner Rounsley requested an amendment to the minutes, under New Business, regarding resignation of Adam Carney as Planning Commissioner. As mentioned in the agenda

January 14, 2026

approval but not mentioned in the New Business. Just that he spoke to his resignation as he is joining the City Council and the Commission accepted his resignation. Commissioner Rounsley moved to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion made by Commissioner Rounsley, Seconded by Commissioner Bennett II.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Bennett II, Commissioner Rounsley, Commissioner Rutherford, Commissioner Roberts.

Motion passes: 4/0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORTS

Mayor Watterson just wanted to come today to wish you all a happy New Year and thank you all for continuing to be on the Planning Commission. Shared that there were two applicants for the vacant position. There was a third application requested but we have not received that back from him. There has been a lot with the Comp Plan update and knows it has been a lot of work this last year. If any questions about the budget, please feel free to reach out. Lastly, if the Planning commission has anything they want to , please let him know and they could look into it and if it is possible they will try.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SCJ will be at next meeting with updated material to go over based off questions and comments from 12/11/25 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

3. Applications for Planning Commission

Please review and discuss application for planning commission.

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the two applicants. Both applications came in at the end of December. On the surface Pam looks pretty involved in local stuff and both seem interested enough to do it. Chair Rutherford would request to encourage the applicants to come to the next meeting. The Commissioners would like to encourage any of the applicants to come to the meetings even if they are not selected for the position because there are so few participants that come to these meetings, and to come as a non-voting member.

Commission Chair:

Chair Rutherford stated that we should have put this under New Business but he has been the Chair for a long time and in the past they just would pass the torch to the next Senior Commissioner which would be Matthew Rounsley, if he is interested or they can vote or Commissioner Rutherford could continue to be Chair. Commissioner Rounsley said either way,

he would happily be the Chair but he thinks Chair Rutherford has done a great job. Commissioner Rounsley feels like since he does not live in Tenino that it feels strange for him to be the Chair also. Commissioner Rounsley made a motion to confirm Commissioner Rutherford to be the Chair for the 2026 Planning Commission.

Motion made by Commissioner Rounsley, Seconded by Commissioner Bennett II.

Voting Yea: Commissioner Bennett II, Commissioner Rounsley, Commissioner Rutherford, Commissioner Roberts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURN

Chair Rutherford Adjourned the meeting at 6:50PM