

TO: City Council
FROM: Michelle Sutherland, Administrative Services Director
DATE: May 19, 2026
SUBJECT: Ordinance 2026-015 TMC 2.10.040 Chief of Police appointment/duties

1) Recommended Action:

Adopt Ordinance No. O2026-015 amending Tumwater Municipal Code Section 2.10.040, Chief of police appointment/duties.

This Ordinance was recommended for adoption on considerations at the May 12, 2026, Public Health & Safety Committee.

2) Background:

Across Washington municipalities, governance models vary. A growing number of cities utilize a “mayor appoints, council confirms” structure for critical executive leadership positions, particularly for roles with significant public safety, fiscal, legal, and community impact. Requiring Council confirmation of the Chief of Police role ensures the appointment reflects both executive leadership as well as the legislative body representing the community. Using this model promotes increased transparency in the Chief of Police selection, broader community representation through elected Council participation, and allows for greater confidence in public safety leadership.

3) Policy Support:

City of Tumwater Mission, Vision, Values

The following recommendations supports the council priority of “Tumwater Excellence” to refine and sustain a great organization.

4) Alternatives:

Maintain current appointment structure.

5) Fiscal Notes:

None.

6) Attachments:

A. Ordinance 2026-015 TMC 2.10.040 Chief of Police appointment/duties.