MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL
September 15, 2026

CONVENE: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Leatta Dahlhoff and Councilmembers Peter Agabi, Joan Cathey, Angela Jefferson, Meghan Sullivan, Eileen Swarthout, and Brandon Weedon.

Excused: Councilmember Kelly Von Holtz

Staff: City Administrator Paul Simmons, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Adams, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Police Chief Carlos Quiles, Jr., Fire Chief Brian Hurley, Finance Director Troy Niemeyer, Information Technology Director Lance Inman, Communications Director Jason Wettstein, Parks and Recreation Director Chuck Denney, Water Resources & Sustainability Director Dan Smith, Deputy Community Development Director Sharon Lumbantobing and City Clerk Melody Valiant.

Others: President of the People First Washington Thurston County Chapter Ivanova Smith, Thurston County Trustee Mary Beth Harrington, Timberland Regional Library Regional Manager Anthony Rogers, Timberland Regional Library Interim Executive Director Andrea Heisel, Partner with Pacific Law Group Deanna Gregory and Financial Advisor with Northwest Municipal Advisors Scott Bauer.

SPECIAL ITEMS:

PROCLAMATION: WEEK WITHOUT DRIVING, OCTOBER 1-8, 2026

Councilmember Weedon read a proclamation declaring October 1-8, 2026, a Week Without Driving which was established in 2021 by Washington State by the Disability Mobility Initiative of Disability Rights Washington so those who have the option to

drive can learn firsthand about the barriers and challenges that non-drivers face. President Ivanova Smith with People First Washington Thurston County chapter spoke about how bringing more awareness to non-drivers is good and that they have several videos available for the public to watch to learn about crosswalk safety. She invited several members of the People First Thurston County chapter to speak.

Mayor Dahlhoff presented the proclamation to President Smith.

PROCLAMATION: FIRE PREVENTION WEEK, OCTOBER 4-10, 2026

Councilmember Sullivan read a proclamation declaring October 4-10, 2026, as Fire Prevention week. This year's theme is "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging is a Super power!" It serves to focus on lithium - ion batteries to better educate the public about how to buy, charge and dispose of them safely. Residents and businesses are urged to heed the messages and to support the efforts of the Tumwater Fire Department and other emergency services to keep us safe from fires. Several members of the Fire Department were present.

Mayor Dahlhoff presented the proclamation to Chief Hurley.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public comment was given by residents and community members Fergus and Weddington.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

a. Approval of Minutes: City Council Meeting, August 18, 2026
b. Approval of Minutes: City Council Work Session, August 25, 2026
c. Approval of Minutes: City Council Meeting, September 1, 2026
d. Payment of Vouchers
e. Resolution No. R2026-013, Financial Policy Updates
f. Alternative Response Team Grant Agreement with the Association of Washington Cities
g. Cancellation of the October 6th Regular Council Meeting
h. Advisory Board Appointment of Paul Strickland to the Historic Preservation Commission

MOTION:

Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Weedon, to approve the Consent Calendar as published. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION APPOINTMENT OF PAUL STRICKLAND:

Mayor Dahlhoff invited Paul Strickland to speak after being appointed to the Historic Preservation Commission. He expressed his gratitude to the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity and shared his personal pride as a fifth-generation Washingtonian serving a historic city.

PUBLIC HEARING:

RESOLUTION NO. R2026-014, IN SUPPORT OF TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LEVY LID LIFT PROPOSITION:

Mayor Dahlhoff opened the public hearing to discuss Resolution No. R2026-014, regarding the upcoming Timberland Regional Library (TRL) District Levy Lid Lift. Administrator Simmons introduced guests from the library including Thurston County Trustee Mary Beth Harrington, Regional Manager Anthony Rogers, and Interim TRL Executive Director Andrea Heisel.

Interim Director Heisel presented information on the proposed levy lid lift slated for the November ballot. She detailed plans to increase the library district's levy rate to stabilize operational revenue and prevent reductions in open hours and staffing. She said that approving the lid lift would allow TRL to stabilize its finances, restore library hours, expand physical and digital collections, and maintain staffed services.

Mayor Dahlhoff opened the testimony for the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Mayor Dahlhoff closed the public hearing at 7:52 p.m. with no one giving public comment.

MOTION:

Councilmember Swarthout moved, seconded by Councilmember Cathey, to adopt Resolution No. R2026-014, In Support of Timberland Regional Library Levy Lid Lift Proposition. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.

COUNCIL CONSIDERATIONS:

ORDINANCE NO. O2026-006, DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS:

Director Niemeyer gave a presentation on Ordinance No. O2026-006, Delegation of Authority to Issue bonds for approval. He introduced Deanna Gregory from Pacifica Law Group and Scott Bauer of Northwest Municipal Advisors members of the city's bond financing team.

The ordinance is intended to fund major capital projects, which include purchasing a building for a new city hall, remodeling Fire Station T2, and acquiring two properties for the Habitat Conservation Plan. Director Niemeyer explained that issuing debt is necessary because the city cannot pay for these large purchases upfront but can afford to finance them over a period of years.

MOTION: **Councilmember Sullivan moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson, to adopt Ordinance No. O2026-006 Delegation of Authority to Issue Bonds. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH CITIES OF LACEY, OLYMPIA, AND THURSTON COUNTY FOR FRANZ ANDERSON ROAD PERMANENT HOUSING PROJECT SECOND AMENDMENT:

Deputy Director Lumbantobing presented the Second Amendment to the regional Interlocal Agreement (ILA) for the Franz Anderson Road Permanent Housing Project. The amendment confirms Tumwater's $275,000 financial commitment and adjusts the project's layout to help the nonprofit provider, Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), financially balance the 70-unit project.

All participating city councils reviewed the agreement simultaneously, with final approval from Thurston County scheduled for the end of the month.

MOTION: **Councilmember Sullivan moved, seconded by Councilmember Cathey, to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Cities of Lacey, Olympia and Thurston County for Franz Anderson Road Permanent Housing Project – Second Amendment. A voice vote approved the motion unanimously.**

MAYOR/CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Simmons reminded everyone that the Mayor's proposed budget had been emailed and printed out and put in their in boxes and is available for pick up.

Mayor Dahlhoff had no report.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Councilmembers Agabi, Cathey, Jefferson, Sullivan, Swarthout, and Weedon gave reports.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilmembers discussed the timeline for reviewing and voting on the proposed home energy ordinance that was previously

referred to the Equity Commission for further study. A formal report and recommendation from the commission are scheduled to return to the council by October to guide next steps.

ADJOURNMENT: **With there being no further business, Mayor Dahlhoff adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.**

Prepared by Melody Valiant, City Clerk