ORDINANCE NO. O2026-022

AN ORDINANCE of the City Council of the City of Tumwater, Washington, amending Chapter 3.36 of the Tumwater Municipal Code by adding a new section, 3.36.075, to establish a new Abatement fund.

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to be proactive in code enforcement and abatement of nuisance properties; and

WHEREAS, General Fund revenues do not keep pace with inflation and the rising cost of legal fees, cleanup, and other expenses required for abatement; and

WHEREAS, reimbursements of abatement costs currently go back into the General Fund and need to be specifically reallocated for abatement during the budget process; and

WHEREAS, separating abatement funding is advantageous to ensure funds are available in future budget cycles; and

WHEREAS, one of the City's strategic goals is to refine and sustain a great organization; and

WHEREAS, the City's strategic objectives are to be fiscally responsible and develop sustainable financial strategies; and

WHEREAS, adding a new fund to separately account for the revenue and expenses will help to ensure funding for future abatement will be available;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUMWATER, STATE OF WASHINGTON, DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new section 3.36.075, Abatement Fund, is hereby added to the Tumwater Municipal Code as follows:

3.36.075 Abatement Fund

A. There is established a fund to be known as the "Abatement Fund," into which shall be deposited all monies paid or reimbursed to the City following the abatement of a nuisance property.
B. The Fund is to be used for the expenditures of abatement activities. For the purpose of this fund, abatement activities are defined as processes,

procedures, or steps necessary for the purpose of cleaning up nuisance properties. They may include legal fees, court costs, and clean-up activities such as the costs of providing dumpsters, tipping fees, towing, and demolition of structures.

C. The fund shall be administered by the Finance Director in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.
D. If, at any time hereafter, the City Council shall abolish the Abatement Fund, then all monies on deposit therein shall revert to the General Fund.

Section 2. Corrections. The City Clerk and codifiers of this ordinance are authorized to make necessary corrections to this ordinance including, but not limited to, the correction of scrivener/clerical errors, references, ordinance numbering, section/subsection numbers, and any references thereto.

Section 3. Ratification. Any act consistent with the authority and prior to the effective date of this ordinance is hereby ratified and affirmed.

Section 4. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are declared separate and severable. The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section, or portion of this ordinance, or the invalidity of the application thereof to any person or circumstance, shall not affect the validity of the remainder of the ordinance, or the validity of its application to other persons or circumstances.

Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective five (5) days after passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 17th day of November, 2026.

CITY OF TUMWATER

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Leatta Dahlhoff, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Melody Valiant, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____

Karen Kirkpatrick, City Attorney

Published:_____

Effective Date:_____