

MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER PLANNING COMMISSION
May 26, 2026



CONVENE: 8:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Elizabeth Robbins, Vice Chair Brandon Staff, and Commissioners Sandra Nelson, Grace Edwards, and Terry Kirkpatrick.

Excused: Commissioners Matthew Rounsley and Gina Kotek.

Staff: Associate Planner Dana Bowers, Deputy Community Development Director Sharon Lumbantobing, Community Development Director Brad Medrud, and Sustainability Program Manager Alyssa Jones Wood.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: No changes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Vice Chair Staff moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick, to approve the minutes of May 12, 2026, as published. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS' REPORT: No reports.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: No report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Public Comment was provided by resident and community member Rompa.

ORDINANCE NO. O2026-008, 2026 BUILDING Director Medrud presented Ordinance No. O2026-008, 2026 Building Demolition Code Updates, proposing code amendments to Tumwater Municipal Code (TMC) 15.50 Demolition.

**DEMOLITION CODE
UPDATES:**

Commissioners made the following recommendations:

- Adding a definition of “foundation” and clarifying whether pilings are included
- Clarifying applicability to partial reuse and partial demolition projects
- Updating application requirements to require foundations be shown on site plans
- Adding erosion control standards

**BATTERY ENERGY
STORAGE SYSTEMS:**

Planner Bowers and Manager Jones Wood presented background information and policy concepts intended to guide potential code amendments related to battery energy storage systems, including:

- Energy Storage Capacity and Use
- Physical Scale of the Facility
- Zone Districts
- Screening and Setbacks
- Fire/Thermal Runway
- Noise
- Decommissioning

Commissioners requested that additional information be provided to the City Council regarding the risks associated with battery energy storage systems. Commissioners also requested additional clarification that the “No Action” alternative would not prohibit battery energy storage systems. Instead, such systems would continue to have a permitting pathway through existing Washington State Department of Labor and Industries process, but without additional standards or regulations that could otherwise be addressed through Tumwater Municipal Code.

Commissioner Kirkpatrick moved, seconded by Vice Chair Staff to forward a recommendation to City Council to direct staff to prepare code amendments for battery energy storage systems. Motion carried unanimously.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, Chair Robbins adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Prepared by Dana Bowers, Associate Planner