

TO: General Government Committee
FROM: Brad Medrud, Deputy Community Development Director
DATE: February 18, 2025
SUBJECT: Ordinance No. O2025-004, Suspending Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendments

1) Recommended Action:

Place Ordinance No. O2024-004 amending Chapter 18.60 of the Tumwater Municipal Code, on the March 4, 2025, City Council consideration calendar with a recommendation to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign.

2) Background:

In accordance with RCW 36.70A.130, the City must periodically review, and if needed, revise its Comprehensive Plan and development regulations every ten years to ensure compliance with the Washington State Growth Management Act. The City must complete the current periodic update on or before December 31, 2025.

Pursuant to RCW 36.70A.130 and TMC 18.60.025(A)(2), proposed map and text amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan and corresponding rezones are only considered once per calendar year. Individuals and agencies may submit applications for Comprehensive Plan amendments on an annual basis by a date set by the City Council, generally before the first Monday in December for the following year.

The periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan started in 2022 using a phased, multiyear approach, and involving a multidisciplinary team spanning all City departments. Accepting proposals for annual Comprehensive Plan amendments may be in conflict with and complicate the periodic update and divert limited resources from the periodic update. In lieu of the annual amendment process, amendment requests may be incorporated into the periodic update and considered together with other proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

The City Council originally suspended the annual Comprehensive Plan amendment process by Ordinance No. O2022-023 on October 18, 2022, from October 1, 2022, until June 30, 2025. The Washington State Legislature approved HB 2296 which was signed by the Governor and extended the deadline for completing the Comprehensive Plan periodic update from June 30, 2025, to December 31, 2025.

3) Policy Support:

Goal LU-1: Ensure the Land Use Element is implementable and coordinated with all applicable City plans and the plans of other jurisdictions in the Thurston region.

GOAL LU-2: Ensure development takes place in an orderly and cost-efficient manner in order to best utilize available land and public services, conserve natural resources, protect critical areas, preserve open space, and reduce sprawl.

4) Alternatives:

None

5) Fiscal Notes:

This is an internally funded work program task.

6) Attachments:

A. Ordinance No. O2025-004