

TO: City Council
FROM: Kelly Adams, Assistant City Administrator
DATE: June 9, 2026
SUBJECT: Economic Development Quarterly Update

1) Recommended Action:

This is a quarterly update to Council on the progress of Economic Development work.

2) Background:

Over the last quarter, staff advanced work in five related areas: Opportunity Zones, the Economic Development Element update, the Brewery District's redevelopment readiness, business outreach and recruitment, and regional placemaking.

Opportunity Zone Application

Staff submitted Tumwater's Opportunity Zone application to the Washington State Department of Commerce in partnership with the Thurston Economic Development Council. The application required significant coordination and data collection with the City of Olympia, the Port of Olympia, City Community Development staff, and regional partners, and positions key redevelopment areas for future investment and infrastructure coordination.

Comprehensive Plan Development

Staff completed draft policy and implementation tables for the Economic Development Comprehensive Plan Element and presented them to the Planning Commission. Feedback was positive, with plain talk language refinements requested. Broader outreach is now underway with local economic development partners.

Brewery District Redevelopment Readiness

Brewery District and brownfield work progressed on multiple fronts. The Old Tumwater Brewery Boiler House demolition project was advanced by the House Appropriations Committee and included in the FY27 House budget through Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland's Community Project Funding process. Staff also executed a new Qualified Environmental Professional agreement with Pioneer Technologies who will soon initiate the Phase II environmental work on the Brewery Warehouse property.

Business Outreach and Support

Business outreach focused on lessons learned and active recruitment.

Regional Place Making

Staff attended the City Nation Place conference in Vancouver, B.C., as part of a broader Thurston County delegation. The conference is an early step toward a coordinated regional placemaking strategy focused on civic pride, positive perception, bookable visitor experiences, and alignment between jurisdictions.

3) Policy Support:

Strategic Plan 2026-2032

Focus Area: Growth and Development

Pursue and support targeted community and economic development.

4) Alternatives:

N/A

5) Fiscal Notes:

N/A

6) Attachments:

None