

MEETING MINUTES

TUMWATER CITY COUNCIL
March 3, 2026



CONVENE: 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Leatta Dahlhoff and Councilmembers Peter Agabi, Angela Jefferson, Eileen Swarthout, Meghan Sullivan, Kelly Von Holtz and Brandon Weedon.

Excused: Councilmember Joan Cathey

Staff: Staff: City Administrator Paul Simmons, Assistant City Administrator Kelly Adams, Administrative Services Director Michelle Sutherland, City Attorney Karen Kirkpatrick, Communications Director Jason Wettstein, Acting Police Chief Carlos Quiles, Jr., Fire Chief Brian Hurley, Finance Director Troy Niemeyer, Information Technology Director Lance Inman, Parks & Recreation Director Chuck Denney, Transportation & Engineering Director Brandon Hicks, Water Resources & Sustainability Director Dan Smith, Program Manager Patrick Soderberg, Communications Engagement Specialist Margo Bergendahl and City Clerk Melody Valiant.

Others: American Red Cross South Puget Sound & Olympics Chapter Executive Director Shannon Glenn, Zonta Club of Olympia President Shelly Willis, JFJ Strategies Project Manager Jennie Foglia-Jones and Thurston County Chamber President David Schaffert

SPECIAL ITEMS:

PROCLAMATION: Councilmember Von Holtz read a proclamation declaring March 2026 as American Red Cross month. American Red Cross month honors all the work that the Red Cross does to be at the forefront of helping Americans to prevent, prepare, and respond to large
AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH, MARCH 2026

and small disasters. Families and communities depend on the Red Cross in times of need and the Red Cross depends on the American people to sustain the foundation. Council complimented the local chapter for all their hard work that supports eight counties.

Mayor Dahlhoff presented the proclamation to Shannon Glenn, Executive Director with the American Red Cross South Puget Sound and Olympics chapter.

**PROCLAMATION:
WOMEN’S HISTORY
MONTH, MARCH 2026**

Councilmember Sullivan read a proclamation declaring March 2026 as Women’s History month. Women’s History Month urges people to take actions against gender bias and inequity and join in recognizing women’s contributions to culture, history and society. Mayor Dahlhoff and Councilmembers talked about the importance of Women’s History month and that while current times can be discouraging, there is also a lot to celebrate and look forward to.

Mayor Dahlhoff presented the proclamation to Shelly Willis, President of the Zonta Club of Olympia.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Public Comment was given by residents and community members Mason, Sullivan and Burt.

**CONSENT
CALENDAR:**

- a. Approval of Minutes: City Council February 3, 2026
- b. Approval of Minutes: City Council Work Session, February 10, 2026
- c. Payment of Vouchers
- d. Service Provider Agreement with Gray & Osborne for the Well 15 Aeration and Design Project
- e. Final Acceptance of Work with A&D Enterprises for the Antsen Sewer Project
- f. Final Acceptance of Work with Miles Resources for the Israel Road Pedestrian and Bike Project
- g. Fiber Optic Cabling Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation Amendment No. 17

MOTION:

Councilmember Jefferson, moved, seconded by Councilmember Swarthout, to approve the Consent Calendar. Motion carried unanimously.

**COUNCIL
CONSIDERATIONS:**

**REGIONAL
MEMORANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING
(MOU) WITH CITIES
OF OLYMPIA, LACEY,
THURSTON COUNTY
AND PORT OF
OLYMPIA FOR
PLANNING AND
MANAGING THE
OLYMPIA/LACEY FAN
ZONE FOR THE 2026
FIFA WORLD CUP:**

Assistant Administrator Adams presented a Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Cities of Olympia, Lacey, Thurston County and Port of Olympia for the planning and managing of the Olympia/Lacey fan zone for the 2026 International Association Football Federation (FIFA) World cup. This is an agreement that provides the next steps of working with our regional partners to plan fan zone events in the summer of 2026. Assistant Administrator went over the funding history and explained how the Lodging Tax Advisory Committee (LTAC) made the final decision to fund \$7,500 towards it. She introduced David Schaffert, President of the Thurston County Chamber and Jennie Foglia-Jones, Project manager with JFJ Strategies.

President Schaffert gave the history of how the Seattle FIFA chapter reached out to selected communities to host regional fan zones. After it was decided that Thurston County would be a regional fan zone location, the Thurston County Chamber was asked to help and be the lead planner for the events. Project Manager Foglia-Jones defined what a fan zone is, the locations throughout the state hosting them including the location for the Olympia/Lacey fan zone at Port of Olympia's NorthPoint. She also highlighted the dates of the matches, the layout of the fan zone and the activities that would be available to participants.

Council asked clarifying questions and had a lengthy discussion about how the FIFA fan zones would work.

MOTION:

Councilmember Sullivan, moved, seconded by Councilmember Jefferson, to approve the Regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cities of Olympia, Lacey, Thurston County and Port of Olympia for Planning and Managing the Olympia/Lacey Fan Zone for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Motion carried unanimously.

**MAYOR/CITY
ADMINISTRATOR'S
REPORT:**

Mayor Dahlhoff reported that the Budget & Finance Committee met on February 27, 2026. She had three highlights from the monthly financial update presentation that Director Nieymeyer gave:

- The general fund is tracking steady with revenues and expenditures remaining aligned with our adopted budget

- Sales tax is holding even though national global risks remain that could affect it in the future
- Utility and enterprise funds are stable

Administrator Simmons reminded everyone about the Council Retreat on March 7, 2026. He also said that the last half of the retreat there will be an in depth presentation on the budget and that soon they will be starting the 2027-2028 biennial budget process. Lastly, he said that some concerned residents have been writing about the closure of the Evergreen pool. He acknowledged that it is challenging times and he has reached out to the school district to make sure they are looking for alternatives for all the resources our schools need.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Councilmembers Sullivan and Weedon gave reports.

Councilmember Agabi gave no report.

Councilmember Jefferson gave a report and shared that the Public Works Committee will meet on March 5, 2026, to discuss the following:

- Reimbursable Agreement with Washington State Department of Transportation for the Tumwater Blvd & I-5 Interchange Project
- Acceptance of Work with Northwest Cascade for the Linwood Avenue Sidewalk, Susitna Lane to 2nd Avenue project
- Committee meeting schedule

Councilmember Swarhout gave a report and shared that the General Government Committee will meet on March 11, 2026, to discuss the following:

- Ordinance No. O2026-001, 93 Ave and Case Rd Annexation
- Committee meeting schedule

Councilmember Von Holtz gave a report and shared that the Public Health and Safety Committee will meet on March 10, 2026, to discuss the following:

- Tentative Tumwater Police Policy 539 – Body Worn Camera Policy – Briefing

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- Memorandum of Understanding with the Tumwater School District regarding Temporary Reduction of School Resource Officer (SRO) Staffing
 - Interlocal Agreement for Opioid Abatement Council Independent Subcommittee with the Cities of Lacey, Olympia and Thurston County
 - Committee meeting schedule

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Dahlhoff adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

Prepared by City Clerk, Melody Valiant