



# Meeting Minutes - Final

## Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501  
Contact: Gary Franks  
360.753.8164

---

**Thursday, October 2, 2025**

**5:30 PM**

**City Hall, Room 207**

---

### **1.A. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Lamson called the meeting to order and read the Tribal Acknowledgment.

### **1.B. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 8 - Chair Kristin Lamson, Vice Chair Melissa Kover, Committee member Dennis Bloom, Committee member Dani Clark, Committee member Ben Gossett, Committee member Scott Hancock, Committee member Donald Krug and Committee member Kathryn Walton-Elliott

### **1.C. STAFF PRESENT**

Interim Water Resources Director and Interim UAC Staff Liaison Gary Franks  
Drinking Water Utility Director Mike Vessey  
Interim Waste ReSources Director Ron Jones  
Senior Program Specialist Kim Johnson  
Senior Program Specialist Spencer Orman  
Administrative Specialist Lindsay Walker

## **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**The agenda was approved.**

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

[25-0819](#) Approval of September 4, 2025 UAC Meeting Minutes

**The minutes were approved.**

## **4. PUBLIC COMMENT - No public comment**

## **5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM UAC AND STAFF**

Interim Water Resources Director Franks provided the following announcements:

Three UAC members with expiring terms in March 2026 have requested re-appointment. This leaves the UAC with one vacancy. The City's advisory committee recruitment opens mid-October.

Storm and Surface Water Utility staff held an art contest for Olympia middle school students to create artwork that informs the community how street sweeping keeps pollution out of local waterways. Three students were chosen and recognized as winners of the contest and their art featured on the side of the street sweeper.

Staff is holding an Arbor Day celebration in combination with National Public Lands Day at the Heritage Fountain on Saturday, October 4, 2025 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Activities include tree giveaways, "Ask the Arborist" and kids activities.

Council 2026 budget discussions started on September 30th. There is a \$6.5 million budget deficit. City Manager will update Council at an upcoming Study Session that includes several program and staffing reduction scenarios for them to consider for balancing the budget. Decisions related to the 2026 budget are not expected to affect the staff's proposed 2026 utility rates or increase the municipal utility tax.

## 6. BUSINESS ITEMS

### [25-0844](#) Waste ReSources 2025 Waste Diversion Program Update

After some clarifying questions and a brief discussion on the presentation, the UAC thanked staff for the briefing.

#### **Discussion only. No action requested**

### [25-0845](#) 2026 Utility Operating Budget, Rates, Capital Facilities Plan and General Facility Charges

The UAC asked some clarifying questions and thanked staff for the briefing. Committee members discussed key points to cover in the letter of support and recommendations to the City Council. They want to address the following three items in the letter:

Support for the City consultant's financial rate study.  
Address the concern for continual deferments of capital funds which delays important infrastructure projects.  
Continue to consider equity and affordability.

**Committee member Clark moved, seconded by Committee member Krug, to approve staff's proposed 2026 utility operating budget and rate proposals, the general facility charges and the 2026 - 2031 Capital Facilities Plan. The UAC will write a letter to the City Council recommending and supporting staff's 2026 proposal. The motion passed unanimously.**

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Lamson adjourned the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

