



Meeting Minutes - Final

City Council

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501
Information: 360.753.8441

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

6:00 PM

Council Chambers, Online and Via
Phone

Watch the meeting at www.olytv3.com

Register for virtual public comment:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LS8YbKqNSoCpSj1EVbi4Qw

1. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Mayor Dontae Payne, Mayor Pro Tem Yén Huỳnh, Councilmember Dani Madrone, Councilmember Robert Vanderpool, Councilmember Clark Gilman, Councilmember Kelly Green and Councilmember Paul Berendt

1.A ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilmember Gilman highlighted the Stamp Out Hunger food drive, held the second Saturday in May and organized by the National Association of Letter Carriers since 1993. Residents are encouraged to leave non-perishable food in provided bags for collection, with donations supporting the Thurston County Food Bank.

City Manager Burney also introduced Hillory Flowers as Interim Fire Chief, following the retirement of Chief Matt Morris.

1.B APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

2. SPECIAL RECOGNITION

2.A [26-0305](#) Special Recognition - Proclamation Recognizing Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

The City Council proclaimed May as Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month, honoring the contributions and cultures of these communities in Olympia.

The proclamation was accepted by Asian Pacific Islanders Heritage Coalition of South Puget Sound Program Director Lin Crowley who invited the community to a celebration taking place on May 23 at the South Puget Community College Lacey Campus.

The recognition was received.

- 2.B** [26-0327](#) Special Recognition - Proclamation Recognizing Jewish American Heritage Month

The City Council proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, celebrating Jewish American history, culture, and contributions to Olympia.

Temple Beth Hatfiloh Board President Daniel Farber accepted the proclamation and emphasized continued partnership with the City.

The recognition was received.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke: Shawna Hawk, Javoen Byrd, George Collin, Elijah Rowland, Kael Moffat, C-C Coates, Danny Burrell, Molly O'Neil, Chris Lewis, Annette Ruzicka, Rozkiva Hughes, and David Webb.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENT (Optional)

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 4.A** [26-0342](#) Approval of April 28, 2026 Olympia City Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were adopted.

- 4.B** [26-0317](#) Approval of a Resolution Authorizing an Application for a Heritage Capital Projects 2027-2029 Grant for the Olympia Armory Building

The resolution was adopted.

- 4.C** [26-0332](#) Approval of a Resolution to Amend the Ziplly Fiber Master Use Permit

The resolution was adopted.

- 4.D** [26-0335](#) Approval of a Resolution Authorizing a Contract with Solid Waste Systems Equipment, LLC for One Waste Collection Truck

The resolution was adopted.

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Councilmember Gilman moved, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Huỳnh, to adopt the Consent Calendar. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mayor Payne, Mayor Pro Tem Huỳnh, Councilmember Madrone, Councilmember Vanderpool, Councilmember Gilman, Councilmember Green and Councilmember Berendt

4. SECOND READINGS (Ordinances) - None

4. FIRST READINGS (Ordinances) - None

5. PUBLIC HEARING - None

6. OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.A [26-0307](#) 2026 State Legislative Session Debrief, Interim Planning, and Preliminary 2027 Legislative Agenda Check-in

Legislative Liaison Susan Grisham introduced the City's State Lobbyist Team from Capital Path, Principal Kyla Shkerich Blair and Senior Associate Daniel Pailthorp who presented a briefing on the outcomes of the 2026 Legislative Session.

They also discussed interim session planning to include meetings with 22nd legislative delegation and other legislators, tours and planning for the 2027 legislative session. Councilmembers shared preliminary thoughts to begin shaping priorities for the 2027 legislative agenda. Initial feedback includes requests for housing and homelessness support, local funding flexibility, addressing tax regressivity, small business and downtown support, sustainability, and continued support for the Deschutes Estuary.

Councilmembers asked clarifying questions.

The information was received.

- 6.B [26-0326](#) Approval of Opioid Funding for Pooling with the Opioid Abatement Council

City Manager Burney presented a proposal to allocate more than \$ \$562,714 in opioid settlement funds to join a regional effort through the Opioid Abatement Council. The funds-part of national litigation settlements-will support a \$2 million Thurston County initiative focused on prevention, treatment, and recovery through 2027. Other jurisdictions are also pooling funds, creating a coordinated countywide approach aligned with the Thurston County Opioid Response Plan.

Councilmembers asked clarifying questions.

Councilmember Gilman moved, seconded by Mayor Payne, to authorize the City's contribution of opioid settlement funds to the regional Opioid Abatement Council pooling fund and direct staff to finalize and transmit the City's funding commitment by June 30th, consistent with the Interlocal Agreement. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Mayor Payne, Mayor Pro Tem Huynh, Councilmember Madrone, Councilmember Vanderpool, Councilmember Gilman, Councilmember Green and Councilmember Berendt

- 6.C [26-0336](#) Discussion of the Downtown Commercial Vacancy Study

Economic Development Director Jennica Machado, along with Leland Consulting Group Managing Principal and Senior Analyst Jennifer Shuch presented the results of a Downtown Vacancy study. The objective of the study is to provide the City with a clear and data-driven understanding of commercial vacancies in downtown Olympia and to identify actionable strategies to reduce vacancies over time.

Potential strategies include reducing development requirements, expanding small business support, increasing flexibility for ground-floor uses, improving sidewalks and façades, streamlining permitting, and expanding downtown events and activations. The City Council noted it may be time to revisit the City's downtown strategy, which was created approximately a decade ago.

Councilmembers asked clarifying questions.

The discussion was completed.

7. CONTINUED PUBLIC COMMENT

8. COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL/COMMITTEE REPORTS AND REFERRALS

Councilmembers reported on meeting and events attended.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT AND REFERRALS

The City Manager had no reports.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.