



CITY OF
SUMNER
WASHINGTON

**GENERAL AGENDA
LODGING TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FIRST FLOOR CONF ROOM
1104 MAPLE STREET
SUMNER, WA 98390
AUGUST 27, 2026 10:00 AM**

Members: Deputy Mayor Elfers, C. Hendricks, K. Crick, D. Burke, M. Anderson, (alt. CM Hochstatter)
Staff: Communications Director Carmen Palmer

The city is conducting this public meeting using a hybrid model. The public is welcome to attend this meeting in-person at City Hall (First Floor Conference Room), or virtually by using the meeting access link below:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/294773722273107?p=HdbakD6asvIM2UdC0H>

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Financial Update
2. Potential Funding Item: Assets for Increased Event Safety
3. Other Potential Funding Needs

REPORTS

ADJOURNMENT

SUBJECT: Financial Update

CATEGORY: Information Only

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: None

Within Budget Allocation: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF CONTACT: Carmen Palmer, Communications Director

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

The current draft of the City's 2027-2028 Biennial Budget includes placeholders for spending \$220,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028.

The last big allocation was for Hops Alley/phase 2 of Heritage Park construction. Sumner LTAC recommended up to \$275,000 in funding. So far, Public Works has used \$252,853.99. They still need to hold \$20,000, which is 20% being held on the landscaping bid items for the required plant establishment period. Per WSDOT specifications, this amount can be released to the contractor after the one-year plant establishment period has been successfully completed, which is around feb/march 2027. It appears, this project will come in with \$2,000 not used in lodging tax.

As of mid-June, this fund had \$406,146. We probably have received two more months since then. Finance is in the middle of the budget process and annual State audit, so we'll see if we can updated numbers by the meeting. If not, we can work with these. Backing out the \$20,000 expected to be spent in winter 2027, as listed above, that puts the balance conservatively at \$386,146.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION:

MEETING/STUDY SESSION DATE:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION:

SUBJECT: Potential Funding Item: Assets for Increased Event Safety**CATEGORY:** Motion

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: \$150,000

Within Budget Allocation: Yes

ATTACHMENTS:**STAFF CONTACT:** Carmen Palmer, Communications Director

SUMMARY BACKGROUND:

With Sumner's lodging tax revenue split between this group and Pierce County Lodging Tax, the City tries to fairly replicate what typically happens for most other cities where that funding goes to one source. The City applied for a 2027 Pierce County Lodging Tax grant under Asset Development for Assets for Increased Event Safety. This ask includes replacing the downtown sound system with a more robust system that can play ambient music most days but also offer a downtown-wide PA system in the event of an emergency at a scheduled event or otherwise. The ask also includes funding for more permanent barricades to extend down Main Street, though the Downtown, to bring increased safety to events held on roadways without always renting and filling water barricades, the City's current strategy. The City split the potential funding between a \$500,000 ask of Pierce County LTAC and a proposed \$150,000 ask of Sumner LTAC with \$100,000 for the Sound/PA system and \$50,000 for the bollard/barricade purchase and installation. Pierce County LTAC will make their funding recommendations on August 26, 2026. By this meeting, we will know if this ask was recommended for funding or not. Depending on that action, Sumner LTAC can consider whether it would like to use this portion of funding to match a Pierce County grant or fulfill some of the project goals if the Pierce County grant does not advance.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION:
MEETING/STUDY SESSION DATE:
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION:

SUBJECT: Other Potential Funding Needs

CATEGORY: Motion

BUDGET IMPACT:

Expenditure Required: None

Within Budget Allocation: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

STAFF CONTACT: Carmen Palmer, Communications Director

SUMMARY BACKGROUND: The Committee may want to discuss other future funding needs to further the goals of the Sumner Strategic Tourism Plan. Potential, future items discussed in 2025:

- \$300,000 to finish design of Heritage Park to construction ready - UPDATE: Sumner City Council approved and funded this from other sources.
- Fund an updated video to replace the dated "Sumner Charm" video, using Pierce County TV and footage/partnerships to minimize cost. UPDTE: This is still a need.

As part of the Budget process, staff must generate goals for 2027-2028. For hotel-motel tax, staff used the items in the Plan most discussed lately by the monthly tourism meetings. Those goals were

- Create Additional Attractions, Events, & Experiences: further evolve Rhubarb Days into a food, craft brew, coffee, flowers, live music, farmer / maker festival that extends through the whole community. (Strategic Tourism Plan)
- Create Additional Attractions, Events, & Experiences: Work with businesses to develop experiential offerings including cooking classes, cidery tours, live music, etc. (Strategic Tourism Plan)
- Partner with other departments to finish Phases 3 & 4 of Heritage Park (Strategic Tourism Plan; Parks, Trails & Open Space Plan)

In this discussion, staff are looking to committee members for direction on these or other potential project(s). Council continue to discuss finishing Heritage Park sooner than later, which is good news for this funding group as the park only produces full returns on investment when it's complete. As noted in the goal above, this group may want to hold off on any further recommendations to accumulate funds toward seed money for Heritage Park construction at a later date.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE/STUDY SESSION:

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS/MOTION: