



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 868 2412 7684

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/86824127684](http://www.zoom.us/j/86824127684) Passcode: 614650

**October 26, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

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Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker,  
Catherine Ushka, Victoria Woodards (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Blocker and McCarthy

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Approval of Minutes

1. [21-1020](#) Approval of the minutes of the May 25, 2021 meeting

**MOTION:** Chair Thoms moved to approve the minutes of the  
May 25, 2021 meeting.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Ushka.

**ACTION:** Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared  
adopted.

**Ayes:** 3 - Thoms, Ushka and Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Blocker and McCarthy

## Briefing Items

2. [21-1018](#) Tacoma Public Utilities Economic Development Update  
[Michael Catsi, Economic Development Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities]

At approximately 10:25 a.m., Michael Catsi, Economic Development Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), presented an update on how TPU is addressing the issue of economic development, including an introduction, the relationship between utilities and economic development, Strategic Directive 9 passed by the Public Utility Board, a 2020-2021 review, a 2019-2021 summary, green hydrogen, an electrofuels tariff pilot program, rate competitiveness, power and water rates of peer ports, 2021 activity, and a summary.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation of TPU's work with City staff on economic development work, and future collaboration.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-1019](#) November 9, 2021 - Outdoor Dining Program Update

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be on November 9, 2021, and will include an update on the outdoor dining program.

Discussion ensued regarding passing the outdoor dining program through the City Council quickly, and whether the outdoor dining approval process has been simplified for business owners.

Lynda Foster, Committee Liaison, stated that a Tacoma Venues and Events presentation will be heard at the November 23, 2021, meeting, that Tacoma Arts Commission interviews will be conducted at the November 30, 2021, meeting, and the Tacoma Creates annual report will be presented at the December 14, 2021, meeting.

## Other Items of Interest


There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

 on behalf of

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Robert Thoms, Chair



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Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office