



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

November 15, 2022

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Council Member Blocker called the joint study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh and Walker

Absent: 2 - Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 4 - Bridges, Claus-McGahan, Cohen, and O'Loughlin

Absent: 1 - Watson

MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to appoint Council Member Blocker to serve as presiding officer of the City Council.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

Public comment was taken.

No individuals addressed the City Council.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh and Walker

Absent: 2 - Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Joint City Council / Tacoma Public Utility Board Briefing Item

1. [22-1263](#) Legislative Agendas and Policies Update

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office, provided opening remarks and an agenda on the Citywide state and federal priority agendas and policies; and introduced Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, and Logan Bahr, State Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU). She continued by presenting the 2023 General Government (GG) state priorities, including affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and shelter; the Northwest Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Processing Center; behavioral health system and vulnerable populations; police transparency and public safety; transportation improvements and preservation; climate action; Cheney Stadium improvements; funding for the South Tacoma Fire Station No. 7 replacement; equitable fiscal structure; and renovating the downtown library's Main Branch.

Bahr presented the 2023 TPU state priorities, including priorities related to TPU overall; and specific priorities related to Tacoma Water, Tacoma Rail, and Tacoma Power.

McLeod presented the 2023 GG federal priorities, including a summary of the 117th United States Congress; and priorities related to affordable housing and homelessness, policing and criminal justice systems transformation, human dignity and public safety, economic security, civil rights, telecommunications, and implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

Mather presented the 2023 TPU federal priorities, including priorities related to TPU overall, and specific priorities related to Tacoma Water, Tacoma Rail, and Tacoma Power; and next steps, noting adopting the Citywide priorities, and upcoming federal and state legislative sessions.

Discussion ensued regarding encampments in the right-of-way, advocating for home ownership, library capital improvements, the Howard A Hanson Dam, a proposed federal electric bicycle rebate program, Northwest ICE Processing Center detainees and their rights, the benefits of collaboration between GG and TPU departments, statutes related to possession of illicit substances, Fire Station No. 7 in South Tacoma, civil rights, federal legislation related to abortion, adding the number of beds needed for behavioral health, equity in the cannabis industry and the Community Reinvestment Act, statewide

middle housing policies and the Home in Tacoma Project, appreciation for TPU Director Jackie Flowers and City Manager Elizabeth Pauli, support for an extreme weather policy, improving accessibility for transit and transportation, and policy questions for staff to follow up on.

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The joint study session concluded at 1:00 p.m.

The regular study session convened at 1:00 p.m.

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City Council Briefing Item

Other Items of Interest

- 2. [22-1264](#) Council Consideration Request - Business License Fees and Business Engagement at the Economic Development Committee

Presiding Officer Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request on behalf of Mayor Woodards for a resolution directing the City Manager to support the Economic Development Committee in reviewing and suggesting recommendations on how the City can improve communications and better support local businesses. He concluded by stating the proposed resolution will be on the November 22, 2022, meeting agenda for consideration.

Discussion ensued regarding the suggestion to include a business climate survey in the process, support for the local business community, and equity.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 3. [22-1265](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 10, 2022

City Manager Pauli stated that there are no ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda; no changes are expected to tonight's meeting agenda; and the second public hearing on the proposed 2023-2024 Biennial Operating Budget, and the proposed 2023-2024 Capital Budget and 2023-2028 Capital Facilities Program, will be held during tonight's meeting.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk