



City of Tacoma Committee of the Whole Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

9th Floor Visibility Center

December 02, 2014

3:00 PM

Call To Order

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Present: 7 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Thoms, Walker and Strickland

Absent: 2 - Mello and Woodards

Deputy Mayor Woodards arrived at 3:45 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. 14-1219 Medical Marijuana Regulation and Enforcement

Mayor Strickland provided background information regarding licensing issues for medical and recreational marijuana facilities. Brian Boudet, Planning and Development Services, provided background information regarding previous actions taken by Council related to medical and recreational marijuana, and reviewed the location of state-licensed recreational marijuana facilities, including pending applications. He then reviewed public feedback received to-date, and topics that may be reviewed at the Planning Commission's public hearing on December 3, 2014, including clarifying applicability, further limit hours of operation, address concentration, and establish a new local review process. Mr. Boudet concluded by noting the Planning Commission's draft recreational marijuana permanent regulations are on the City's website at cityoftacoma.org/planning, and public hearing will be held tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. Discussion ensued regarding hours of operation.

City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli reviewed the City's enforcement strategy since 2012; current unlicensed facility locations; and enforcement options, including maintain the current strategy, enhance the current strategy to be more proactive, license and tax all operations, or close down marijuana operations unless the facility is properly licensed by the Washington State Liquor Control Board. She then reviewed the pros and cons for each enforcement strategy option. Ms. Pauli concluded by stating staff recommends option number four to shut down all unlicensed marijuana operations, and reviewed the suggested approach for this option.

Discussion ensued regarding the philosophy for the recommended change in enforcement, whether option number four conflicts with Initiative No. 1 which states marijuana or cannabis offenses are the lowest enforcement priority of the City, how legal access to marijuana affects decisions going forward, and whether crime rates increase near marijuana facilities.

Deputy Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 3:45 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding access to medical versus recreational marijuana, pricing, licensing of marijuana production and manufacturing facilities, the notification process, buffer zones, and hours of operation. Discussion continued regarding concentration of marijuana facilities, public safety, legal versus illegal marijuana operations, how collective gardens purchase their product, access, and medical marijuana cards. Ms. Pauli stated staff will report back with a timeline for implementation of option number four.

2. **14-1220** 2015 Cancelled Council Meeting Options

Mayor Strickland reviewed her preference for the six cancelled Council meetings in 2015.

MOTION: Council Member Boe moved to cancel the City Council meetings on January 20, March 10, May 26, September 8, December 22, and December 29, 2015.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.

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

Ayes: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Strickland

Absent: 1 - Mello

Discussion ensued regarding the process for increasing the amount of cancelled Council meetings.

Council Consideration Requests

There were no Council consideration requests.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk