



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569
November 28, 2023
12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSION

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Mayor Woodards
Absent: 2 - Daniels and Walker

Port of Tacoma Commissioners

Present: 5 - Ang, Keller, Marzano, McCarthy, and Meyer

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:07 p.m. and Deputy Mayor Walker arrived at 12:21 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Walker and Council Member Ushka participated virtually.

Joint City Council / Port of Tacoma Briefing Items

1. [23-1122](#) Decarbonization Efforts Alignment Update

At approximately 12:02 p.m., Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Port of Tacoma, provided opening remarks on the Port's decarbonization efforts and introduced Jason Jordan, Director of Environmental Programs and Planning, and Steve Nicholas, Senior Manager for Air Quality and Sustainable Practices, Port of Tacoma. Together, Jordan and Nicholas presented vision, noting the goal of zero emissions by 2050; and the growing global maritime decarbonation movement, noting the collaboration with global leaders.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:07 p.m.

Jordan and Nicholas continued with the sources of cargo-related emissions, noting diesel particulate matter, greenhouse gases, and sources of emission across three port entities; advancing environmental and climate justice;

source-specific initiatives, noting clean vessels program, clean cargo handling equipment (CHE) program and clean trucks program; longer-term strategic initiatives, noting the Tacoma-Seattle gateway, upcoming challenges, and United States-South Korea Green Corridor Study; and strong partner relationships.

Deputy Mayor Walker arrived here, at 12:21 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the Clean CHE Program, noting conversion of diesel trucks; synergy amongst other cities' ports; equity for truck drivers; solutions for pollution from diesel trucks inside the City; capacity; mileage of electric trucks; data of freight routes throughout the City; shore power system; and charging stations.

Jim Parvey, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager, Environmental Services (ES), provided an update on the City's decarbonization efforts and introduced Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Officer, ES. Lynett presented background; 2030 climate milestones; Resolution No. 40776, noting requirements on all new municipal buildings and renovations to exclude fossil fuels, inventories of existing facilities, developing a plan to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, prioritizing zero emissions fleet, developing impact assessment of requiring non-fossil fuel sources, developing an impact assessment for commercial and residential development in the City, and encouraging other local entities to adopt similar policies; the 2023 Climate Action Plan; and next steps.

Discussion continued regarding appreciation and continued collaboration; State legislative agenda, noting policy and strategy for funding; greenhouse gases from new construction; monitoring and inventory of current emissions; intelligent transportation systems; strategic plan in collaboration with Pierce Transit; need for data; funding, noting Climate Commitment Act dollars; Clean Ports Program; EV charging stations; and alignment of voices throughout Pierce County.

Alan Matheson, Superintendent, Tacoma Rail, presented the Tacoma Rail battery-electric locomotive project, including an overview; alignment; freight rail electrification, noting funding awarded; collaboration with Tacoma Power; and post project benefits.

Discussion continued regarding substitution of freight vehicles, noting the number of diesel vehicles that would be eliminated by using trains instead; and excitement for being positioned to be the first short line railroad in the Northwest to deploy battery-electric locomotives.

2. [23-1123](#) Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Update

At approximately 1:32 p.m., Ramiro Chavez, Director, Public Works, presented an overview of Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge, noting issues; historical information, noting structure over Puyallup River; 2023 inspection; closure of the bridge; reopening requirements; inspection considerations; replacement costs; replacement funding; funding potential; and conclusions.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns of spending money to clean the bridge only to find out there is too much structural damage and the bridge needs to close, specification on funding, activity on Lincoln Avenue Bridge, partnerships, operational cost for closure, design of a new bridge, overall strategy and load limit, partnership with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and economic impact.

* * * * *

The joint study session concluded at 2:17 p.m.

The regular study session convened at 2:17 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

3. [23-1124](#) Manitou Annexation Briefing

At approximately 2:17 p.m., Brian Boudet, Director, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided opening remarks on the Manitou Annexation process and timeline, and introduced Wesley Rhodes, Senior Planner, PDS. Rhodes presented Manitou potential annexation area, remaining timeline, what would change, and fiscal impacts. Lewis Griffith, Solid Waste Division Manager, ES, presented the solid waste transition agreement. Rhodes concluded with the internal and external transition strategy.

Discussion ensued regarding average utility increase to residents, noting communicating what services residents are gaining; demographics of the neighborhood; and excitement for new residents.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [23-1126](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 22, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, November 28, 2023, as Student Government Day, and a Compassionate Tacoma Recognition for Twin Tigers Taekwondo; that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda; and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and (ii) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 20 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:40 p.m.
Interim City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:03 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk