



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
October 04, 2022
12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Daniels, Hines and Ushka

Council Member Hines arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:30 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Ushka arrived at 12:58 p.m.

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Council Member Hines arrived here, at 12:01 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [22-1073](#) City of Tacoma Proposed Budget

At approximately 12:01 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on the proposed 2023-2024 Biennial Operating and Capital Budget; expressed appreciation for staff; and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Johnston provided further opening remarks and presented an agenda; what makes a good budget; and the budget process and strategic direction, noting City Council priorities, community engagement and outreach, and the staff process. She continued by reviewing a financial summary, including the 2023-2024 proposed budget; Citywide and General Fund (GF) expenses by priority; proposed GF revenues and expenses; the 2023-2024 GF by department; the GF financial forecast, noting the \$24 million budget gap and the baseline structural gap; and proposals to close the gaps. She further reviewed the GF revenue and expense summaries; the 2023-2024 reserves, noting the City Council’s reserve policy; the proposed change to

annual business license fees and gross income tiers; the proposed excise tax on solid waste; fee and utility rate recommendations; and economic risks and considerations.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:30 p.m.

City Manager Pauli presented budget highlights, including the equity and anti-racism framework that is built into the design of proposals and programs. She further outlined budget considerations for the City Council priority areas of affordable housing and homelessness, and community safety, noting the strategic direction, guiding plans, strategic measures, major issues, budgets, and major budget initiatives for each; and alternative response.

Deputy Mayor Ushka arrived here, at 12:58 p.m.

City Manager Pauli continued by reviewing budget considerations for the City Council priority areas of access, livable wage jobs, health, and belief and trust, noting the strategic direction, guiding plans, strategic measures, major issues, budgets, and major budget initiatives for each. She further outlined the internal services budget for 2023-2024; a budget summary; and the budget calendar and schedule. Together, City Manager Pauli and Johnston concluded by summarizing the proposed outreach for fall 2022.

The study session recessed at 1:57 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff; the financial forecast and future budget gap; funding for specific programs and initiatives, noting the Green Economy Study; matching grants; support for the Tacoma Public Library; investments in affordable housing, sheltering, and homelessness; revenue trends and sales tax forecasts; impacts of the City's focus on equity and transformation; a comparison of the proposed budget with previous budgets; upcoming presentations from specific departments; community safety spending; community needs; and the digital budget book available online at city-tacoma-wa-budget-book.cleargov.com/5144.

Other Items of Interest

2. [22-1074](#) Council Consideration Request - Tacoma Urban League Empowerment Awards

Council Member Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$5,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support the Tacoma Urban League Empowerment Awards, including information

about the awards; the City’s sponsorship level; programs; alignment with the City’s strategic goals; and the plan to bring forward a resolution on the October 11, 2022, meeting agenda.

2a. [22-1091](#) Ordinance No. 28831 - Substitute No. 2 (Mayor Woodards)

Mayor Woodards stated that she plans to make a motion at next week’s City Council meeting to amend Amended Substitute Ordinance No. 28831, related to use of public property, to add restrictions on encampments within 200 feet of protected waters. She further explained that the amendment will include public property near rivers, waterways, creeks, streams, and the shorelines of Puget Sound; impacts on the Puyallup Tribe of Indians; and related regulations and codes.

Discussion ensued regarding enforcement methods in the original ordinance.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [22-1077](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 29, 2022

City Manager Pauli stated there are four ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda, proclaiming Monday, October 10, 2022, as Indigenous Peoples’ Day; proclaiming Saturday, October 8, 2022, as Arbor Day and Green Tacoma Day; proclaiming Friday, October 7, 2022, as Manufacturing Day; and proclaiming October 2022 as Walk and Roll to School Month. She concluded by stating that a motion may be considered on tonight’s meeting agenda to continue Resolution No. 41038, regarding the Tidelands Subarea Plan and Environmental Impact Statement future development alternatives, to the meeting of October 18, 2022.

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Deputy Mayor Ushka stated that she plans to make a motion at next week’s City Council meeting to amend Amended Substitute Ordinance No. 28831, to provide for enforcement alternatives to civil fines, such as community service. Council Member Walker stated she also plans to make a motion at next week’s City Council meeting to amend Amended Substitute Ordinance No. 28831, to add wording regarding evaluation of the program.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding enforcement mechanisms, substitute ordinances and amendments, community court options, and notifying Council Members and staff of proposed amendments.

Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Ushka moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the qualifications of a public employee, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:57 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended by 10 minutes at 3:12 p.m., and by 15 minutes at 3:23 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:37 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk