



# City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 3423 3126

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/84834233126](https://www.zoom.us/j/84834233126) Passcode: 349099

**June 27, 2023**

**5:00 PM**

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## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

## FLAG SALUTE

Council Member Ushka stated that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.

The flag salute was led by Council Member Ushka.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

## ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. [23-0670](#) Minutes of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, February 22, 2023.
2. [23-0630](#) Minutes of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, January 25, 2023.
3. [23-0631](#) Minutes of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, February 8, 2023.
4. [23-0646](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission special meeting, April 5, 2023.
5. [23-0645](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, April 5, 2023.

## AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Mayor Woodards stated that the City Council will receive a communication from the City Clerk, regarding the petition entitled "Landlord Fairness Code: A Tenant Bill of Rights".

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to suspend the rules to add a communication to tonight's agenda, under the Regular Agenda, as Item 14A, regarding the petition entitled "Landlord Fairness Code: A Tenant Bill of Rights".**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

**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

## CONSENT AGENDA

6. [23-0683](#) Minutes of the City Council special meeting, March 25, 2023.
7. [23-0684](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, April 4, 2023.
8. [23-0685](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, April 11, 2023.

## INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

9. [RES41227](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Seattle's Office of Emergency Management, in the amount of \$100,000, budgeted from the General Fund, to merge funding for the purpose of establishing community resilience hubs, a priority identified in the 2030 Climate Action Plan. [James G. Parvey, P.E., Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager; Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services]

## PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

10. [RES41228](#) A resolution awarding a contract to Asphalt Patch Systems, Inc., in the amount of \$460,860, plus applicable taxes, plus a 15 percent contingency, for a cumulative total of \$529,989, budgeted from the Transportation Capital Fund, for replacement of unfit or unsafe sidewalks at various locations within the Eastside Neighborhood Council District - Specification No. PW23-0054F.  
[Sandra Guffey, Engineering Technician IV; Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Interim Director, Public Works]

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 41227 and 41228.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 41227 and 41228. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

## PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. [23-0676](#) Proclaiming July 2023 as Pride Month.

Mayor Woodards proclaimed July 2023 as Pride Month and presented the proclamation to Quincy Tyson, Executive Director, Rainbow Center; Ryan Mello, Council Member, Pierce County Council; Jared Eyer, Senior Business Services Analyst, Tacoma Fire Department; and Lee MacClellan, Senior Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works.

12. [23-0681](#) Recognizing Doris Sorum.

Mayor Woodards recognized City Clerk Doris Sorum and presented the recognition to City Clerk Sorum.

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**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to suspend the rules to take public comment on the recognition for Doris Sorum, at this time.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

**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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment began at 5:23 p.m.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Sally Perkins, speaking on the recognition for Doris Sorum.
2. Kit Burns, speaking on the recognition for Doris Sorum.
3. Marty Campbell, speaking on the recognition for Doris Sorum.
4. David Boe, speaking on the recognition for Doris Sorum.
5. Joe Lonergan, speaking on the recognition for Doris Sorum.
6. Ryan Mello, speaking on the recognition for Doris Sorum.

Public Comment ended at 5:32 p.m.

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The City Council meeting recessed at 5:57 p.m.

The City Council meeting reconvened at 6:10 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT (Continued)**

Public Comment began at 6:11 p.m.

The City Clerk’s Office received five written comments for Public Comment on Ordinance No. 28894, regarding amendments to the Rental Housing Code.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Michele Reich, speaking on the Pride Month proclamation.
2. Bill Kupinse, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
3. Kit Burns, speaking on Ordinance No. 28888.

4. Jonathan Pottle, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894, 23-0688, and Resolution No. 41233.
5. Devin Rydel Kelly, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
6. Beverly Allen, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
7. Chelsea McElroy, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
8. Marilyn Kimmerling, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
9. Jonathan Staub, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894.
10. Phil Harty, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
11. Clover Tamayo, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
12. Michael Whalen, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
13. John Utz, speaking on Ordinance Nos. 28894 and 28888.
14. Barbara Church, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894.
15. Oneida Arnold, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
16. Ben Brown, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
17. Stacy Oaks, speaking on 23-0688 and Ordinance No. 28894.
18. Sean Arent, speaking on 23-0688 and Ordinance No. 28894.
19. Theresa Evans, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and Resolution No. 41233.
20. Carole Sue Braaten, speaking on Ordinance No. 28888.
21. Oscar Rojas, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
22. Eric Ard, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
23. Liz Ryan, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
24. Zephyra Burt, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
25. Carlos Morales, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
26. Brenton Brookings, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
27. Jamika Scott, speaking on 23-0688 and Ordinance No. 28894.
28. Eric Herde, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
29. Alton McDonald, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
30. Shelbi Virgil, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894.
31. Kathy Lawhon, speaking on Resolution No. 41233 and Ordinance No. 28888.
32. Michelle Mood, speaking on 23-0683, 23-0688, and Ordinance No. 28894.
33. April Smith, speaking on the recognition for Doris Sorum, Ordinance No. 28894, and 23-0688.
34. Heidi Stephens, speaking on Ordinance No. 28888.
35. Jude Grey, speaking on Ordinance No. 28884 and 23-0688.
36. Bob Neal, speaking on Ordinance No. 28888.
37. Devin Glaser, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
38. Cameron Peterson, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.
39. Clara Cheeves, speaking on 23-0688 and Ordinance No. 28894.
40. General Ovunayo X, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894.
41. Kerri Hill, speaking on Ordinance Nos. 28888 and 28894, and 23-0688.
42. Ekie Adams, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894.

43. Christina Manetti, speaking on Ordinance No. 28894 and 23-0688.  
Public Comment ended at 7:28 p.m.

## REGULAR AGENDA

13. [23-0671](#) A motion may be considered to confirm the emergency proclamation, related to the damage at the Union Avenue to South Tacoma Way ramp, signed by the City Manager and the Mayor, retroactive to February 27, 2023.

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to confirm the emergency proclamation, related to the damage at the Union Avenue to South Tacoma Way ramp, signed by the City Manager and the Mayor, retroactive to February 27, 2023.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

**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

## APPOINTMENTS

14. [RES41229](#) A resolution appointing Kashmiri Gavronski to the Board of Ethics.  
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt Resolution No. 41229.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

## COMMUNICATIONS

- 14A. [23-0688](#) City Clerk advising that the petition entitled "Landlord Fairness Code: A Tenant Bill of Rights", did contain the required number of signatures to place the initiative on the November 2023 ballot.

This item was informational only.

## PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

15. [RES41230](#) A resolution awarding a contract to Global Contractors, LLC, in the amount of \$2,999,526.00, plus applicable taxes, plus a 15 percent contingency, budgeted from the Transportation Capital Fund, for sidewalk and streetscape improvements from Earnest S Brazill Street to 6th Avenue along Martin Luther King Jr. Way, for a projected contract total of \$3,449,454.90 - Specification No. PW23-0021F. [Jon Kulju, Project Manager; Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Interim Director, Public Works]

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt Resolution No. 41230.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

## RESOLUTIONS

16. [RES41231](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of an amendment to the interest-free loan agreement numbered RRB-1269 with Washington State Department of Transportation, to extend the completion date of certain railroad improvement projects from June 30, 2023, to December 31, 2023. [Kyle Kelleem, Roadmaster; Dale King, Rail Superintendent]

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt Resolution No. 41231.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

17. [RES41232](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of an amendment to the Tacoma Link Joint Operating Agreement with Central Puget Sound Regional Transit Authority d.b.a. Sound Transit, to revise and add certain mutually agreed terms and conditions. [Stephanie Brock, Engineering Manager; Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Interim Director, Public Works]

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt Resolution No. 41232.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

18. [RES41233](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement with Pierce County, in an amount not to exceed \$9,600,000, budgeted from the General Fund, for jail services, through December 31, 2028. [Chris Bacha, Chief Deputy City Attorney; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt Resolution No. 41233.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker



**FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

- 19. [ORD28888](#) An ordinance amending the non-exclusive 20-year franchise agreement with Rainier Connect North LLC, to transfer the agreement to Alphaboost Purchaser, LLC, to construct, operate, maintain, and provide cable television services in the City. [Jeff Lueders, Division Manager; Amy Clancy, Director, Media and Communications Office]

**ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28888.**

**The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

- 20. [ORD28892](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for employees represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483, Court Clerks Unit. [Dylan Carlson, Labor Relations Division Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

**ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28892.**

**The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

- 21. [ORD28893](#) An ordinance adopting the Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program amended for the years 2023 and 2024-2029. [Jennifer Kammerzell, Assistant Division Manager; Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Interim Director, Public Works]

**ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28893.**

**The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

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The City Council meeting recessed at 7:56 p.m.

The City Council meeting reconvened at 8:20 p.m.

## FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

22. [ORD28894](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.95 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Rental Housing Code, to require landlords to comply with health and safety laws; have a City business license before increasing rent or evicting tenants; set limits on late fees for rent and on pet deposits; require 120-day notice to raise rent; add new regulations for shared housing; and standardize screening criteria for the amount of tenant income required to qualify for housing, for reviewing a tenant’s criminal history, and acceptable identification.  
[Mayor Woodards]

**ACTION: Ordinance No. 28894 was set over for final reading on July 11, 2023.**

## PUBLIC HEARINGS AND APPEALS

23. [23-0609](#) This is the date set for a public hearing by the City Council on the 2023 Annual Amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code, as recommended by the Planning Commission.  
[Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner; Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services]

The public hearing began at 8:49 p.m.

The City Clerk’s Office received two written comments for the public hearing.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Michele Reich, resident.
2. Mark Slater, resident.
3. Charlie Brown, resident.
4. John Utz, resident.
5. Les Pogue Jr., resident.
6. Stacy Oaks, resident.
7. April Smith, resident.
8. Michelle Mood, resident.
9. Heidi Stephens, resident.
10. Swarn Soldate, resident.
11. Michael Pate, resident.

The public hearing ended at 9:46 p.m.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Forum began at 9:47 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received six written comments for Community Forum regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project and climate change.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Michele Reich, regarding Native American genocide.
2. Kyle Jolibois, regarding liquefied natural gas and the South Tacoma warehouse project.
3. Cathie Raine, regarding the City's Equity Index and the South Tacoma warehouse project.
4. Steven Neshyba, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
5. Bill Kupinse, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
6. Kit Burns, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
7. Jonathan Pottle, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project and Ordinance No. 28894.
8. Devin Rydel Kelly, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
9. John Utz, regarding Ordinance No. 28894.
10. Ellen Floyd, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
11. Barbara Church, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
12. Tom Hathorn, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
13. Victoria Leistman, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
14. Callista Brown, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
15. Oneida Arnold, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
16. Richard Lovering, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
17. Gemini Gnull, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
18. Julia Dickerson, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
19. Stacy Oaks, regarding City Council responsibility and the South Tacoma warehouse project.
20. Sean Arent, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
21. Kathy Lawhon, regarding the Community Forum format, the South Tacoma warehouse project, and the Tacoma Police Department.
22. Carl Teitge, regarding Local Improvement District No. 8663.
23. Rachel Wilkie, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
24. Alton McDonald, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project, the City's form of government, and transparency.
25. Clover Tamayo, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
26. Mary Lynn, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.

27. Liz Ryan, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project and the East 72nd Street and East McKinley Avenue intersection.
28. Jonathan Strivens, regarding land use proposal no. 22-0244, regarding development of a 28 acre property connected to Charlotte's Blueberry Park.
29. Norma Ramirez, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
30. Rachel Haxtema, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project and Ordinance No. 28894.
31. April Smith, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project and a homeless encampment on South 80th Street.
32. Reverend AC Churchill, regarding the City Council's strategic policy priorities, the 2030 Climate Action Plan, and the South Tacoma warehouse project.
33. Mack Ford, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
34. Neal Anderson, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
35. Claire Richards, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
36. Christina Manetti, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
37. Pamela Malague, regarding the land acknowledgement and the South Tacoma warehouse project.
38. Iris Antman, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
39. Colleen Meiners, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
40. Ellen Kohjima, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
41. Katy Parrish, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
42. Michelle Mood, regarding communication with the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council and the South Tacoma warehouse project.
43. Ekie Adams, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.

Community Forum ended at 11:05 p.m.

The City Council and City Manager Elizabeth Pauli addressed comments from Community Forum regarding a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the South Tacoma warehouse project, including how the HIA could be initiated or requested, timing, state laws, risks, and options to include HIA requirements in the Tacoma Municipal Code; the State Environmental Policy Act process and restrictions; the permitting process, noting limitations on City actions; and outreach, noting a request for summary handouts, and opportunities to hold events for community members to receive further information and ask questions.

**REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Pauli introduced the City's new Deputy City Manager Hyun Kim and provided background on his career.

Mayor Woodards announced that Monday, June 26, 2023, was the start of summer programming to provide safe places for youth in the community, noting there are 12 sites, over 250 teens attended, there are still opportunities to participate, and more information can be found online at [tacomaschools.org](http://tacomaschools.org).

**COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Economic Development Committee

There was no report.

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

There was no report.

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Mayor Woodards stated that personal fireworks are illegal within the City limits, and reminded everyone that Summer Blast will take place on the Dune Peninsula and Ruston Way, on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, beginning at 11:00 a.m. with the fireworks show beginning at approximately 10:00 p.m, noting that more information is available at [metroparkstacoma.org](http://metroparkstacoma.org).

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**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to excuse Deputy Mayor Walker from the meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

**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

**ADJOURNMENT**

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk