



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

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

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

February 16, 2021

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Blocker called the joint study session to order at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 2 - Thoms and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 5 - Bushnell, Cooley, Flint, Patterson, and Watson

Mayor Woodards arrived at 1:03 p.m.

All Council Members and Public Utility Board (PUB) Members participated virtually.

Joint City Council/ Public Utility Board Briefing Item

1. [21-0168](#) Climate Justice Action Plan

At approximately 12:04 p.m., Jim Parvey, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager, Environmental Services (ES), provided opening remarks and introduced Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Officer, ES, LaTasha Wortham, Regional Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), and Emma Keese, Climate Action Coordinator, Citizens for a Healthy Bay.

Ms. Lynett presented an update on the Climate Action Plan and the Environmental Action Plan (EAP), including a history from 2016 to 2020. Ms. Wortham outlined TPU's EAP process, progress, and milestones. Ms. Lynett further reviewed the City's climate and equity commitments, including the climate energy resolution, COVID-19 Emergency

Proclamation, and anti-racist system transformation resolution; 2019 climate emissions sources; past and future climate emissions, including forecasted levels based on current policies, proposed new actions, and international recommendations; guiding principles for the 2021 plan; elements of the 2021 plan; and a timeline of current and future phases. Ms. Keese further summarized community feedback during Phase I, including engagement methods; groups engaged; and feedback themes related to sustainability priorities, sustainability barriers, and general community concerns. Ms. Lynett and Ms. Wortham concluded by outlining next steps for the City Council and PUB.

Discussion ensued regarding State and Federal regulations and recommendations, funding sources, potential projects, environmental and health impacts of climate change, reducing transportation emissions, selling excess power, programs for low-income households, subsidizing electric vehicle purchases and energy efficiency, an environmental justice and equity focus, conservation opportunities with the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project, a request to share the Sustainable Tacoma Commission's suggestions with the PUB, carbon impacts and incentives for inefficient buildings and homes, and adequacy of the City's power grid.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to convene to Joint Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.

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

Ayes: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 2 - Thoms and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Ayes: 5 - Bushnell, Cooley, Flint, Patterson, Watson

The City Council and PUB convened to Joint Closed Session at 1:03 p.m.

Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 1:03 p.m.

The Joint Closed Session was extended by 20 minutes at 1:28 p.m., and by 5 minutes at 1:50 p.m.

The Joint Closed Session concluded, and the joint study session reconvened, at 1:58 p.m.

The joint study session concluded, and the regular study session convened, at 1:59 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

2. [21-0169](#) Tideflats Subarea Plan, Tideflats and Industrial Land Use Amendments and Fossil Fuel Baseline Report

At approximately 1:59 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks; introduced Jay Shih, Associate, and Jason Hennessy, Senior Associate, BERK Consulting, and Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney; and presented an update on the Tideflats Subarea Plan schedule from 2020 to 2023; the six-month outlook of upcoming events; proposed non-interim regulations, noting the background of past legislation, meetings, and the scope of review; proposed amendments related to permit notification, incompatible uses, residential encroachment in Northeast Tacoma, and siting of heavy industry uses; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed non-interim regulations and impacts on existing interim regulations, examples of incompatible uses, status of allowed heavy industry uses, the definition of renewable fuels, land use compatibility, and feedback from the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

Mr. Atkinson further introduced the Tacoma Fossil Fuel Baseline Study, including background and purpose of the study. Mr. Hennessy presented the study methodology, including baseline data, documentation of changes within the subarea, economic impact of facilities, and projections of future demand. Mr. Shih described major oil transportation methods, crude oil movement by volume and mode, and oil refining capacity in Washington State; existing fossil fuel facilities in the Tideflats, noting locations, types, and capacity; refined petroleum products and crude oil transported by water from 2000 to 2019; a comparison of the types of product transported by water; and crude oil inbound to Tacoma by rail from 2017 to 2020. Mr. Hennessy and Mr. Atkinson concluded with a review of next steps.

3. [21-0170](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 2:50 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, the systems transformation update table, the next steps timeline, and the draft transformation timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding the new safety-related position in the Neighborhood and Community Services Department, the proposed Office of Community Safety, the study of diverting calls for service and implementation timelines, and implicit bias training for the City Council and police staff.

Other Items of Interest

4. [21-0171](#) Council Consideration Request- Opioid Task Force

Council Member McCarthy stated that he is requesting \$2,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to support the 2021 Pierce County Opioid Summit on March 2, 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding the amount requested.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [21-0172](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, February 11, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated that there is one ceremonial on tonight's agenda, proclaiming February 2021 as Career and Technical Education Month, and no changes are expected to the agenda.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.

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

Ayes: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 2 - Thoms and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 3:08 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Chief Deputy City Attorney Chris Bacha were present.

The Executive Session was extended by 15 minutes at 4:08 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 4:24 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk