



City of Tacoma

Committee of the Whole Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

9th Floor Visibility Center

September 16, 2014

3:00 PM

Call To Order

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

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

Absent: 2 - Campbell and Woodards

Briefing Items

There were no briefing items.

Council Consideration Requests

1. 14-0860

Mayor's Commission on International Relations

Mayor Strickland reviewed the purpose of the Mayor's Commission on International Relations. She stated many organizations like the Sister Cities Program, the World Affairs Council, Port of Tacoma, the World Trade Center, and the City of Tacoma are all working related to international relations and different activities, but without a common agenda. Mayor Strickland stated this Commission would bring all these entities together and include partners from K-12, higher education, and economic development and discuss an agenda for the next two years on how to work together in the same direction, leverage resources, and support each other.

Mayor Strickland noted reasons for discussing this issue at the City level and local government: increase competitiveness in attracting foreign investment, provide access to international markets for local businesses, cultivate the arts and educational exchanges, and leverage relationships to increase tourism and get people more familiar with Tacoma. Mayor Strickland stated she joined with the Mayors of Seattle and Everett to launch the Global City Initiative, which is sponsored by the Brookings Institute and J.P. Morgan Chase. Mayor Strickland stated she would like to engage Council Members with Tacoma's sister cities by having each Council Member adopt a sister city to become more familiar with the city. She stated the Global City Initiative will have an official launch in December and will provide the opportunity to help some existing firms; which are all local companies that have an international

presence.

Mayor Strickland discussed the Brookings Institute Study in the Global City Initiative, stating that Washington State ranks 31st in attracting Foreign and Direct Investments (FDI). She stated economic development is about trying to attract large companies from other markets to move here with tax breaks and regulatory incentives, bringing outside money into the community. She noted plans to bring in representatives from different organizations to create a common agenda for increasing Tacoma's profile internationally, boosting tourism, promoting education and the arts, and increasing access of foreign markets to local businesses.

Mayor Strickland recommended starting a commission to develop a strategy for Tacoma to coincide with the Global City Initiative and increase the involvement of the City Council in the Sister Cities Program, with a thoughtful, strategic, intentional direction with how the City can attract more investment while helping local businesses get access to international markets. She stated there will be an update about international economic development happening in Tacoma at the study session on September 30, 2014.

Discussion ensued regarding the efforts of Tacoma becoming an international city.

Committee Reports

Council Member Boe stated the Cross District Association met with their new board, looking at business development.

Council Member Lonergan reported the Zoo Track Authority met recently regarding the preview of the budget and partnering with the school district, while beginning discussions of the Metro Parks bond that will go towards zoo projects. He stated Northwest Trek is getting ready to start a kid play land area.

Council Member Mello provided an update on the Flood Control Zone District, which delivered a capital budget proposal to the Board of Supervisors. He stated the Community Council will put innovative grant dollars in the next biennium budget and work with staff to make the delivery of the projects more efficient.

Council Member Walker reported on the time she spent in Seattle at the Puget Sound Regional Council meetings, Economic Development District Board meeting representing Pierce Transit on the Transportation Board, the Washington State Affordable Housing Advisory Board meeting, and the Pierce Transit Board.

Mayor Strickland stated a resolution will be on the agenda for September 23, 2014, expressing support for Initiative 594.

Other Items of Interest

Discussion ensued regarding the policy of recreational marijuana.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk