



City of Tacoma

City Council Action Memorandum

**TO:** Elizabeth A. Pauli, City Manager  
**FROM:** Christopher Bacha, City Attorney *CDB*  
**COPY:** City Council and City Clerk  
**SUBJECT:** Curative Ordinances  
**DATE:** January 9, 2024

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**SUMMARY AND PURPOSE:**

A series of 19 ordinances authorizing the ratification and confirmation of 19 ordinances previously adopted by the City Council between November 20, 2023, and December 20, 2023, for the purpose of curing a procedural defect arising from an inadvertent omission in the publication of each ordinance.

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Tacoma has adopted an official newspaper for the publication of ordinances as required pursuant to RCW 35.22.288. This statute, together with Section 2.13 of the City Charter, require that the City publish the ordinance in the official newspaper within ten days of passage. Between November 20 and December 20, 2023, the City Council adopted 19 ordinances, in addition to a bond refunding ordinance, and timely requests for publication of each ordinance were filed with the City’s official newspaper. The City was notified on the afternoon of December 28, 2023, that the requested notices were not published due to an inadvertent omission by the official newspaper. Failure to publish the ordinances as required by statute and the City Charter has created a procedural defect in each ordinance which can be cured by ratification and confirmation of each ordinance by the City Council. The following adopted ordinances are subject to the above-described procedural defect: 28911, 28912, 28913, 28914, 28915, 28916, 28917, 28918, 28919, 28921, 28922, 28923, 28924, 28925, 28926, 28927, 28928, 28929, and 28930. The City Attorney’s Office recommends that the City Council approve each of the 19 proposed ordinances to correct the procedural defects in each ordinance. The procedural defect for Ordinance No. 28920 will be cured separately through adoption of a new ordinance, which will repeal Ordinance No. 28920 upon its passage.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT/ CUSTOMER RESEARCH:**

The Council Action Memorandums filed with each of the 19 previously adopted ordinances to be ratified and reconfirmed describe who will potentially be affected by the proposals set forth in each such ordinance and the community engagement that occurred. No community outreach was conducted for the proposed 19 curative ordinances as there will be no change in the effect of these ordinances.

**2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

**Equity and Accessibility: *(Mandatory)***

The proposed legislation will reduce racial and other inequities, disparities, or discrimination to under-represented communities in the manner described in the Council Action Memorandums previously filed with each of the 19 previously adopted ordinances proposed to be ratified and reconfirmed. Curing the procedural defects in each of the previously adopted ordinances will ensure that each ordinance adopted can remain effective to achieve its intended goals.



**Economy/Workforce:** See CAM for each of the 19 previously adopted ordinances

**Education:** See CAM for each of the 19 previously adopted ordinances

**Civic Engagement:** See CAM for each of the 19 previously adopted ordinances

**Livability:** See CAM for each of the 19 previously adopted ordinances

**Explain how your legislation will affect the selected indicator(s).**

See CAM for each of the 19 previously adopted ordinances

**ALTERNATIVES:**

| Alternative(s)                       | Positive Impact(s) | Negative Impact(s)   |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 1. Not adopt the curative ordinances | None               | The validity of each ordinance could be subject to future challenge in the absence of a curative ordinance     |
| 2. Adopt replacement ordinances      | None               | Replacement ordinances will have a delayed effective date and in some instances may not comply with state law. |

**EVALUATION AND FOLLOW UP:**

The City Attorney's Office has researched the viable methods for curing the procedural defect.

**STAFF/SPONSOR RECOMMENDATION:**

The City Attorney's Office recommends that the Council adopt each proposed ordinance. Each ordinance has been prepared in compliance with state law to cure the procedural defects.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No fiscal impact

**Are there financial costs or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?**

YES

**Will the legislation have an ongoing/recurring fiscal impact?**

No

**Will the legislation change the City's FTE/personnel counts?**

No

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Excel spreadsheet identifying each of the 19 adopted ordinance proposed to be ratified.

|    | <b>Legislation No.</b> | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Council Date</b> | <b>Publication Date</b> |
|----|------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1  | Ordinance No. 28911    | An ordinance amending Chapter 12.06 of the Municipal Code, relating to Electric Energy - Regulations and Rates, to add a new Section 12.06.266, entitled "Very large load service of 10 aMW or more - Schedule VLL", and by amending various sections to align with the new Schedule VLL, effective January 1, 2024.  | 11/21/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 2  | Ordinance No. 28912    | An ordinance amending Chapter 12.10 of the Municipal Code, relating to Water - Regulations and Rates, by amending Section 12.10.301, entitled "Fire hydrant services fee", and Section 12.10.400, entitled "Rates – Inside and outside City limits", effective January 1, 2024.   | 11/28/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 3  | Ordinance No. 28913    | An ordinance authorizing an increase in the Ad Valorem general property tax revenue collection in terms of both dollars and percentage for the general property tax levy in 2024.   | 11/28/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 4  | Ordinance No. 28914    | An ordinance fixing the amount of the Ad Valorem tax levies necessary to identify the amount of the estimated revenues from property tax levies to match estimated expenditures for debt service and other funding requirements.  | 11/28/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 5  | Ordinance No. 28915    | An ordinance authorizing an increase for the Emergency Medical Services property tax levy in terms of both dollars and percentage.  | 11/28/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 6  | Ordinance No. 28916    | An ordinance fixing the amount of the Emergency Medical Services levy necessary to identify the amount of the estimated revenues from the property tax levy to match estimated expenditures for debt service and other funding requirements.  | 11/28/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 7  | Ordinance No. 28917    | An ordinance modifying the 2023-2024 Biennial Operating Budget to appropriate funds for contractual obligations, transfers, and other budget adjustments; authorize interfund transfers and contributions; and accept, deposit, and appropriate miscellaneous donations, contributions, and/or fees.  | 11/28/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 8  | Ordinance No. 28918    | An ordinance modifying the 2023-2024 Capital Budget to recognize changes in transfers, additional revenues, and budget adjustments.   | 11/28/2023          | 11/30/2023              |
| 9  | Ordinance No. 28919    | An ordinance amending Chapter 3.11 of the Municipal Code, relating to Emergency Medical Transportation, by amending Section 3.11.060, entitled "Patient transportation service rates", to restore the Emergency Medical Services levy and allow the levy to pay for medical transport charges incurred by qualified City residents, as passed by voters in Proposition 1 in the August 1, 2023, Primary Election.   | 12/5/2023           | 12/7/2023               |
| 10 | Ordinance No. 28922    | An ordinance amending Titles 8 and 17 of the Municipal Code, relating to Animal Control and Public Safety, by amending Section 17.02.140, entitled "Public disturbance noise and public nuisance noise made by an animal", and Section 8.12.060, entitled "Public disturbance noises", to revise requirements for enforcement of an unlawful action and to remove the criminal misdemeanor charge for public disturbance and public nuisance noise made by an animal. | 12/5/2023           | 12/7/2023               |

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| 11 | Ordinance No. 28923    | An ordinance amending Title 17 of the Municipal Code, relating to Animal Control, by adding a new Section 17.02.155, entitled "Cat Declawing", to establish a ban on performing a procedure that results in the partial or complete declawing of a cat except when conducted by a licensed veterinarian for a therapeutic purpose, effective March 31, 2024.  | 12/5/2023           | 12/7/2023                 |
| 12 | Ordinance No. 28924    | <p>An ordinance authorizing the annexation of the Manitou Potential Annexation Area, located near Lakewood Drive West and 66th Street West, to the City of Tacoma, effective April 1, 2024, as set forth in the Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Pierce County executed on December 15, 2021.</p> <p>The annexation area is bounded by Lakewood Dr. W., 65th St. W., 70th St. W., and the County-City Boundaries to the east of 52nd Ave. W. Upon annexation the area will assume the land use and zoning regulations adopted by the City Council per Ordinance No. 28609, on September 24, 2019, and later amended per Ordinance No. 28821, on June 28, 2022. The land use designations for the annexation area are "Low-Scale Residential", "Mid-Scale Residential", and "Neighborhood Commercial". The zoning designations for the annexation are "C1-General Neighborhood Commercial", "R3-Two Family Dwelling, and "R4L-Low Density Multi-Family Dwelling." The entire area is also within the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) zoning overlay.</p> | 12/12/2023          | 12/14/2023;<br>12/18/2023 |
| 13 | Ordinance No. 28925    | A substitute ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for certain represented and nonrepresented employees; and changes in classifications to reflect the organizational structure.   | 12/12/2023          | 12/14/2023                |
| 14 | Ordinance No. 28926    | An ordinance amending Title 9 of the Municipal Code, relating to Public Ways, by repealing Chapters 9.18, 9.19, and 9.20 in their entirety and replacing Chapter 9.20 with a new chapter entitled "Urban Forestry", to establish permit requirements and related regulations for pruning, removal, and planting of street trees, establish policies and procedures for discretionary review of requests to prune trees on public property, establish a heritage tree program, and provide for enforcement and penalties for violations; amending Title 1 of the Municipal Code, relating to Administration and Personnel, by amending Chapter 1.23 of the Municipal Code, entitled "Hearing Examiner", to provide for administrative appeals; and establishing effective dates.   | 12/12/2023          | 12/14/2023                |
| 15 | Ordinance No. 28921    | An ordinance amending the current non-exclusive Right of Use Agreement and Franchise with Pierce Transit, extending the renewal term an additional five-years and amending the current expiration from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2029, for transit-related infrastructure within City rights-of-way.  | 12/19/2023          | 12/21/2023                |

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|----|------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 16 | Ordinance No. 28927    | An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 28910, relating to the Tax and License Code, to include an additional exhibit amending Municipal Code Chapter 6B.10 and 6B.20, effective November 13, 2023.   | 12/19/2023          | 12/21/2023              |
| 17 | Ordinance No. 28928    | An ordinance amending Subtitle 6B of the Municipal Code, relating to the License Code, by amending Section 6B.10.030, entitled "License definitions", and Section 6B.10.190, entitled "Investigations and background checks", to meet Federal Bureau of Investigation requirements to allow the City to conduct nationwide background checks for certain license applicants.  | 12/19/2023          | 12/21/2023              |
| 18 | Ordinance No. 28929    | An ordinance amending Subtitle 6A of the Municipal Code, relating to the Tax Code, by amending Section 6A.30.065, entitled "Job credits", to narrow the definition of a green job and increase the value of the green job tax credit from \$250 to \$1,000 per year; and amending various sections throughout Chapter 6A.30, to update language, address areas of inconsistency, and comply with state law.           | 12/19/2023          | 12/21/2023              |
| 19 | Ordinance No. 28930    | An ordinance amending Chapter 6A.30 of the Municipal Code, relating to Business and Occupation Tax, by adding a new Section 6A.30.067, entitled "Job Credit - Work Opportunity", to provide a new \$1,000 job tax credit for employers adding a new position and filling the position with an individual with a disability, as identified through the vocational referral in the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit. | 12/19/2023          | 12/21/2023              |