



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

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

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**September 24, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott and Walker

**Absent:** 2 - Daniels and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:05 p.m.

### Briefing Items

1. [24-1011](#) Home in Tacoma Zoning and Standards Package - Public Hearing Preparation [Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services]

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services, provided a brief background on the Home in Tacoma zoning and standards package, including Phase 1 and Phase 2; community input; overview, including new residential zones, noting urban residential zones.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:05 p.m.

Boudet continued by reviewing informational events, public comment received, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for the amount of community outreach; housing units needed by 2050; factors preventing growth, including restricted zoning and focused development; implementation process; livable cities, including implementation of sidewalks and crosswalks; impact fees; community and developer education; homeownership incentives; and amendment proposal timeline.

2. [24-1012](#) Tacoma 2025 Progress Update and 2035 Development Plan  
[Jacques Colon, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of Strategy]

At approximately 12:33 p.m., Jacques Colon, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of Strategy, provided opening remarks on the Tacoma 2025 progress update and the 2035 development plan, including Tacoma 2025 overview; how Tacoma 2025 has been used, including organizational strategy and strategic initiatives; indicators; Council priorities; community safety; housing and homelessness; livable wage jobs; access to facilities and services; human and environmental health; belief and trust; starting the Tacoma 2035 process; integrated engagement strategy; One Tacoma engagement results; futuring; proposed Tacoma 2035 goal areas, including community safety example; Tacoma 2025 versus 2035; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff and the presentation, including showing how the City has evolved, learned and the City's role; large event factors, noting the World Cup; proposed goal areas, including collaboration with other agencies and City influence; Tacoma 2035 steering committee; appreciation for streamlining community engagement; potential Tacoma 2035 check-in timeframe; and indicators, including difference between aspirational, supportive, and priority.

## Other Items of Interest

3. [24-1013](#) Council Consideration Request - Pride-Themed Decorative Crosswalk  
[Council Member Diaz]

Council Member Diaz presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$35,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support a Pride-themed decorative crosswalk on Broadway in Downtown Tacoma. She stated a rainbow crossing or rainbow crosswalk is a pedestrian crossing that has the art of the rainbow flag installed to celebrate the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual, and two spirit (LGBTQIA2S+) community and strengthen our values to ensure that everyone's identity and right to live freely as their authentic selves. She concluded by stating the desired resolution date is October 8, 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for leadership; excitement for location; and explanation on cost, including materials and labor.

4. [24-1014](#) Council Consideration Request - Historic McKinley District Halloween Parade  
[Council Member Sadalge]

Council Member Sadalge presented a CCR to allocate \$5,000 of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor the Tacoma Halloween Parade, on October 19, 2024, to include vendors, local food trucks, and a Halloween Parade. He concluded by stating the desired resolution date is October 1, 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation and excitement for the community driven event and start time.

5. [24-1016](#) Council Consideration Request - Alchemy Skateboarding Expansion Project and Youth Access Fund  
[Council Member Walker]

Council Member Walker presented a CCR to allocate \$10,000 to sponsor the Alchemy Skateboarding expansion project and youth access fund. She stated Alchemy is currently in the process of identifying and moving into a larger facility better suited to serve their continually growing community and maintain Alchemy as a regional hub for skateboarding, positive youth development programs, and alternative creative-cultural community interests. She concluded by stating the desired resolution date is October 1, 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for leadership and a reminder of the Participatory Budgeting Project for District No. 2, including the proposed new skatepark under I-705.

## Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Hines stated the Government Performance and Finance Committee report out scheduled for tonight's meeting will be postponed to a later meeting.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [24-1015](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 19, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming October 6-12, 2024, as Fire Prevention Week; proclaiming October 2024 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month; and recognizing Metropolitan Development Council's 60th Anniversary. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and tonight's meeting includes a public hearing the Home in Tacoma zoning and standards package and community forum.

## **Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee**

The executive session was not held.

## **Closed Session - Labor Strategy**

**MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to convene to closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Bushnell**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott and Walker

**Absent:** 1 - Mayor Woodards

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



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**October 01, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:05 p.m.

### Executive Session - Potential Litigation

**MOTION:** Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and (ii) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 20 minutes.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Walker.

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:05 p.m.

The City Council convened to executive session at 12:05 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes at 12:25 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 12:40 p.m.

## Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 20 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 12:40 p.m.

The executive session was extended by 10 minutes at 1:00 p.m., at 1:10 p.m., and at 1:20 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 1:34 p.m.

## Briefing Items

1. [24-1027](#) Proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

At approximately 1:34 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks; reviewed the budget process, including service level and cost review, changes to baseline, balancing the biennial budget, and City Council review and adoption; building public trust, noting community and business feedback, priority areas, responsive operations, demonstrate accountability and transparency; biennial expenses by priority area; funding type; funding source; and expense reductions to close the biennial gap, noting revenue sources, expense increases, General Fund structural gap, contingency reserve, economic response, fee and utility rate recommendations. She then reviewed funding recommendations and usage related to housing and homeless services, community safety, livable wage jobs, and human and environmental health. She concluded with an overview of organizational culture and effectiveness, the proposed budget timeline, and outreach.

Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, reviewed the budget book and presentation materials, and presented an online budget dashboard.

Discussion ensued regarding dashboard data availability, outreach opportunities, budget modification process, reductions and increases, and staff related to Citywide rezoning efforts.

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The study session recessed at 3:13 p.m. and reconvened at 3:22 p.m.

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- 2. [24-1028](#) 2025 State Legislative Agenda  
[Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer;  
Alex MacBain, Senior Government Affairs Advisor, City Manager’s Office]

At approximately 3:22 p.m., Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer, City Manager’s Office (CMO), provided opening remarks and introduced Alex MacBain, Senior Government Affairs Advisor, CMO. MacBain reviewed the 2025 state policy positions by priority area including safety, noting community safety; housing and homelessness, noting partnerships and affordable housing; jobs, noting skills training and small business technical assistance; access, noting guaranteed income and College Promise programs, and transportation; and health, noting behavioral health and support for vulnerable populations, tree impact fees, and reducing air pollution. He then reviewed additional policy positions for 2025 including policy, funding, and capital requests.

Discussion ensued regarding projects on the current list, long term compounding issues and funding, funding for Fire Station No. 7, property tax cap amongst local jurisdictions, advocating for the Community Reinvestment Act dollars, inflation rates, alternative response funding, and decarbonization projects.

### Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

### Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 3. [24-1029](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 26, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are four ceremonials on tonight’s

meeting agenda, proclaiming Friday, October 4, 2024, as Manufacturing Day, proclaiming October 2024 as Filipino American Heritage Month, proclaiming October 2024 as Tacoma Arts Month, and proclaiming October 2024 as Walk and Roll to School Month; and no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



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**October 08, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

#### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Sadalge, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 3 - Bushnell, Rumbaugh and Scott

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 4 - Bridges, Claus-McGahan, Gallagher, and O'Loughlin

Absent: 1 - Watson

Council Member Daniels initially participated virtually, and arrived in-person at 12:13 p.m.

#### Joint City Council / Tacoma Public Utility Board

#### Briefing Items

1. [24-1058](#) Tacoma Public Utilities 2025-2026 Proposed Budget and Rates  
[Jackie Flowers, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities]

At approximately 12:09 p.m., Jackie Flowers, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), presented the TPU 2025-2026 proposed budget and rates, including agenda; overview; 2023-2024 accomplishments, noting Advanced Meter Program installations, secured grants, and locomotive fueling facility completion; challenges and considerations, noting increased costs of wages, materials and contract services; budget and rates strategy; 2025-2026 goals, noting the low-income energy efficiency pilot program; capital projects; biennial budgets; proposed rate adjustments; residential rate comparisons for Tacoma Power and Tacoma Water; Tacoma Rail industry comparisons; other rate changes; public engagement; Bill Credit Assistance Program; additional customer assistance opportunities; and recommended rate and financial policy updates.

Discussion ensued regarding rate comparisons for all utilities in one graph; funding, noting grants, personnel costs, and increases; inspection and permit fees; affordable housing in relation to increasing utility rates; Environmental Services utilities moving under TPU, noting potential structure and exemptions; and Bonneville Power Administration estimated rate schedule.

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The joint study session concluded at 1:10 p.m.

The regular study session convened at 1:22 p.m.

### City Council Briefing Items

- 2. [24-1071](#) Proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget - Public Works and Environmental Services  
[Ramiro Chavez, Director, Public Works; Geoffrey Smyth, Interim Director, Environmental Services]

At approximately 1:23 p.m., Ramiro Chavez, Director, Public Works (PW), provided an update on the proposed 2025-2026 PW biennial operating budget, including an agenda; departmental overview; financial overview, noting increased costs, deferred maintenance, and funding sources; 2023-2024 major accomplishments, noting Street Initiative and capital projects, maintenance programs, access and transportation, facilities management, and department wide accomplishments; community issues and considerations, noting bridge maintenance, equitable access to infrastructure, deferred vehicle maintenance, and SeeClickFix inquiries; 2025-2026 services and major initiatives, noting capital project delivery, pedestrian programs, maintenance programs, parking rate and fee adjustments, and facilities and fleet services.

Discussion ensued regarding funding, securing matching funding, mountain rail expenses, collaboration with other departments in City rights-of-way, baseline ongoing budget items and one-time funding, Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge funding for cleaning and inspection process, sidewalk remediation, graffiti mitigation, parking meters and application, parking citation collection rate and fees, enhancing Real Property Services and Home in Tacoma, and rights-of-way and open space maintenance.

Geoffrey Smyth, Interim Director, Environmental Services (ES), provided an update on the proposed 2025-2026 ES biennial operating budget, including an agenda; departmental overview; 2023-2024 accomplishments, noting climate and health, Tidy-Up Tacoma implementation, capital and green infrastructure projects, and awards and credit ratings; financial overview; major cost drivers; six-year revenue plan; residential bill comparison; customer assistance and credits; budget strategy; 2025-2026 services including solid waste, wastewater,

and stormwater; and major initiatives, noting long-range planning, equity and climate resilience, grants and revenues, urban forestry, solid waste, and Tidy-Up Tacoma.

Discussion ensued regarding rate stabilization, partnership with University of Washington Tacoma, trail maintenance and garbage receptacles, Thea Foss waterway monitoring, Call-2-Haul programming, grant funding, encampment cleanup, variable and fixed rates, illegal dumping, arts and residency programs, EnviroChallenger Summer Program, and solid waste design manual for Home in Tacoma.

Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, provided a brief overview of the Capital Budget and introduced Nick Anderson, Principal Financial Services Analyst, Finance. Anderson provided the Capital Facilities Program; project list, including proposed projects, mapping, and the Facility Advisory Committee; funding sources; budget process; and project highlights.

Discussion ensued regarding real estate and excise tax, project completion, grant funding opportunities, resources available to the public, and curb ramp funding.

The study session recessed at 3:57 p.m. and reconvened at 4:10 p.m.

3. [24-1060](#) Home in Tacoma Zoning and Standards Package - Public Hearing Debrief [Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager; Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services]

At approximately 4:10 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided a debrief on the public hearing for the Home in Tacoma (HIT) zoning and standards package, including an agenda; and public input themes, noting zoning districts and development standards, affordability and home ownership, tree requirements, infrastructure, and the permitting process.

Ted Richardson, Strategic Initiatives Program Coordinator, Office of Strategy, presented additional information on the affordability and home ownership, noting bonus units, ownership creation, and Housing Trust Fund. Mike Carey, Principal Natural Resources Analyst, ES, continued with information on trees and landscaping, including benchmarking themes with other jurisdictions guidelines; and HIT proposed requirements for planting, preservation, and removal. Corey Newton, Site and Building Division Manager, PDS, provided information on infrastructure and service provisions, including coordination with service providers, proposed enhancements, and permitting and implementation. Boudet concluded with next steps, including the October 22, 2024, study session to discuss potential amendments.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff; timeline for upcoming code updates and implementation; incentives for home ownership; amendment drafting; affordable housing funds and projects; tree preservation, noting codes and enforcement; new unit data capturing and market-based tool review; and impacts on the City's conservation credits program.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [24-1061](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Manager, October 3, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Saturday, October 12, 2024, as Green Tacoma Day and Saturday, October 26, 2024, as Arbor Day; proclaiming Monday, October 14, 2024, as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and proclaiming October 2024 as Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month; and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## Executive Session - Potential Litigation

The executive session was not held.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



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**October 15, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:14 p.m.

### Briefing Items

1. [24-1088](#) Proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget - Tacoma Fire Department and Tacoma Police Department  
[Sionna Stallings-Alailima, Interim Fire Chief; Avery Moore, Police Chief]

At approximately 12:02 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, provided an overview of the 2025-2026 biennial budget process, including common budget questions and presentation styles throughout.

Sionna Stallings-Alailima, Interim Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), presented the TFD proposed budget, including an overview of TFD; 2023-2024 accomplishments; financial overview, noting basic life support transport services, fleet and facilities investments funded by levy, and baseline cost increases; and 2025-2026 funding services, noting funding sources.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:14 p.m.

Chief Stallings-Alailima reviewed call volume for fire and emergency management services, active stations and response vehicles, and 2023 dispatched incidents by unit; leave and support; 2025-2026 service delivery, noting rover positions; full commissioned staffing timeline through 2027; facilities, fleet and equipment; Fire Chief transition and vision; station open house events; and Proposition 1.

Discussion ensued regarding flexing down engines, timeline for filling positions, funding sources, target number of calls, location of vehicles, rover positions, stations in the port area and Northeast Tacoma, vacancies within TFD, replacing equipment, and other City programs and services. Avery Moore, Police Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented the TPD proposed budget, including an agenda; TPD overview; priority focus on crime reduction, organization health, and community engagement; 2023-2024 major accomplishments, noting Violent Crime Reduction Strategy and incidents over time, leadership team, staff recruiting and retention; labor agreements, community engagement and grants awarded; and 2025-2026 budget, noting a financial overview, staffing trends and challenges, calls for service, leave and overtime, and strategies and initiatives.

Discussion continued regarding community survey results, funding sources, traumatic experiences and organizational health, defining safety and community, unplanned leave events, filling positions and training academy, community partnership, Community Service Officers (CSO) and Community Liaison Officers, resources, application process, supporting Statewide advocacy, budget process and staffing levels, applying for grants and grant writing, community engagement, and General Fund and other possible funding sources.

Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, together with Johnston, Chief Moore, and Chief Stallings-Alailima, reviewed the 2025-2026 alternative response proposed budget, including homelessness outreach and Homeless Engagement Alternatives Liaison Team, behavioral health crisis response and the Holistic Outreach Promoting Engagement Team, CSO program, designated co-responder housed in TPD, and library social work support.

Discussion continued regarding collaboration amongst departments and teams, library branch social services, future presentation on work programs, and coordinating with services outside Pierce County.

## **Other Items of Interest**

There were no other items of interest.

## **Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [24-1091](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 10, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Thursday, October 17, 2024, as Community Conflict Resolution Day, and no changes are expected to tonight's agenda. She further stated that a Transportation Benefit District (TBD) special meeting will be held later this evening, and explained the purpose of the TBD, how Council Members act as TBD Governing Board Members, and topics for tonight's TBD special meeting.

## Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential and pending litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Walker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:26 p.m. City Attorney Chris Bacha and Chief Deputy City Attorney Steve Victor were present.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:56 p.m.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk

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**October 22, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

## Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:02 p.m.

Council Member Rumbaugh participated virtually.

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Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:02 p.m.

## Briefing Items

- [24-1128](#) Proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget - Neighborhood and Community Services, Community and Economic Development and Planning and Development Services  
[Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services; Pat Beard, Interim Director, Community and Economic Development; Peter Huffman, Director, Brian Boudet, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services]

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), reviewed the proposed biennial budget for NCS, including an agenda; department structure; proposed budget, noting General Fund and dedicated grants, utility and rental assistance, and emergency shelters; 2023-2024 major accomplishments, noting increased access and equitable contracting, Homeless Engagement and Alternative Liaison (HEAL) team, Beacon Center renovations, and Community Trauma Response team; community issues and considerations, noting addressing homelessness; strategies and initiatives, noting service alignment, operational effectiveness, and increased transparency; realignment of senior services; violence reduction and prevention; shelter funding, noting expansion, emergency and temporary sheltering, shelter locations, and anticipated standdown timelines;

and 2025-2026 funding process, noting application period, amounts awarded, funding sources, and service types.

Discussion ensued regarding shelter funding gap, low barrier sites, requesting State funding, timeline for building affordable housing, resources in Pierce County, realigning litter and graffiti services, senior services, community centers and transportation, and continuation of services at temporary shelter sites.

Pat Beard, Interim Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), presented the proposed biennial budget for CED, including an overview; department structure; financial overview, noting General Fund, grants, and taxes; 2023-2024 major accomplishments, noting investments in housing, jobs, and arts and cultural vitality; community issues and considerations; services, noting continuing to implement core services; and initiatives related to business, housing, green economy, and arts and culture.

Discussion continued regarding fund distribution to the community, collaborating with other departments and local businesses, new housing projects, and staff resources and capacity.

Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services (PDS), presented the PDS proposed biennial budget, including an agenda; department structure; financial overview, noting General Fund, rates, fees, and charges; 2023-2024 major accomplishments, noting work on the Tideflats Subarea Plan and the Home in Tacoma project, creating a Permit Compliance team, and prioritizing affordable housing projects; community issues and considerations, noting ensuring necessary infrastructure with utility partners, neighborhood planning, maintaining and improving levels of services, and urban design; 2023-2024 performance overview, noting commercial and residential building, and days for first review; and 2025-2026 major initiatives, noting policy and code updates, affordable housing, regulatory compliance, communication team, and salvage and deconstruction.

Discussion continued regarding plans for neighborhoods and groundwater and symmetry between them, Home in Tacoma adoption and implementation, supporting the community with new construction, projecting future development, and site plan approval.

2. [24-1127](#) Home in Tacoma Zoning and Standards Package - Potential Amendments [Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager; Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services]

At approximately 2:10 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, PDS, provided opening remarks on potential amendments to the Home in Tacoma

zoning and standards practice, including an agenda; three proposed amendments relating to the zoning map, noting aligning density around mixed-used centers, and areas along upzoned areas; proposed amendment relating to side yard setbacks; proposed amendment relating to unit lot subdivision, to allow for shared utility maintenance and costs; proposed amendment relating to reduced parking areas; proposed amendment relating to pedestrian connections, noting minimum width depending on amount units; proposed amendment to homeownership incentives; seven proposed amendments relating to trees and landscaping, to increase tree preservation for non-development sites, increase flexibility for City use of mitigation fees, reduce on-site tree credit requirement floor, remove discretionary variance requirement, create a tree banking tool, modify standards for large tree removals, and reduce on-site tree credit requirements; and next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding upzoning areas that can be safely built on, if the Planning Commission reviewed these amendments, parking areas and State requirements, supporting transit-oriented development, parking resources, Sound Transit development, uses for walkways, homeownership incentives, tree credit requirements, administrative capacity and funding for new tree programs, tree canopy throughout the City, environmental and health benefits of trees, community engagement throughout the process, using watersheds and Equity Index, funding sources, ownership of current trees and enforcement, development regulations, conservation easement, adding areas to scope of tree banking tool, value of large trees, tiered protection system, and competing and companion amendments.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [24-1129](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 17, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, recognizing David Fischer; one change is expected on tonight's agenda, for an additional resolution relating to a spending plan if the fire levy lid lift passes on the November ballot, and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



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**October 29, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

### Briefing Items

1. [24-1162](#) Proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget - Tacoma Venues and Events and Internal Services  
[Adam Cook, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events; Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Adam Cook, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events (TVE), provided opening remarks and shared upcoming events.

The study session recessed 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 12:11 p.m.

Cook reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 TVE biennial budget including an agenda; department overview; financial overview; major accomplishments, noting anniversaries, events, and economic impact; revenues; funded requests, and capital improvements; and 2025-2026 services and major initiatives, noting expense management and General Fund obligations, community support and cultural access, infrastructure improvements, and repairs.

Discussion ensued regarding previous events, resident arts and culture organization support, consultant master plans, using local vendors, relationship with Cheney Stadium, similarities with other municipalities, market size and regional event spaces, logistics of ice rinks, external funding, approximate cost of total renovations, public facilities districts, General Fund obligations, and the FIFA World Cup impact on Tacoma.

Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager, reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 biennial budget for internal service departments, including an agenda; department and offices overview; definition of internal services; financial overview, noting the Internal Services Fund, and cybersecurity. Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance, reviewed major accomplishments, noting bond upgrades and employee training. Amy Clancy, Director, Media and Communications Office, reviewed City services prioritizing belief and trust, and equity, noting language access and digital communications. Cherullo and Chris Bacha, City Attorney, reviewed risk management, litigation and strategic risks, claim for damages, and public records requests. Daniel Key, Director, Information Technology, reviewed infrastructure and systems maintenance, noting cybersecurity, system complexity, and fleet vehicle replacement. Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources, reviewed people and culture, noting employee retention and compensation. Laurie Hardie, Director, Office of Safety, concluded with employee safety programs.

Discussion ensued regarding internships, automation of public records requests, external funding, liability costs, support for outward facing departments, natural disasters, reserve funding, and areas within internal services.

2. [24-1163](#)

2025 Legislative Agenda

[Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Alex MacBain, Senior Government Affairs Advisor, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 1:51 p.m., Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer, City Manager's Office (CMO), introduced Andrea Roper and Alex MacBain, Senior Government Affairs Advisors, CMO; and Briahna Murray, State Lobbyist and Partner, and Amina Abdalla, State Lobbyist, Gordon Thomas Honeywell. MacBain presented the 2025 legislative agenda, including state policy positions, noting priorities areas around safety, jobs, access, health, and other policy position areas; General Government (GG) suggested state policy priorities, funding, and potential additions; and GG capital priority requests.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding Pierce County zoning standards for homelessness services, trash and graffiti removal, infrastructure improvement funding, working with the State Legislature, statewide competitive funding opportunities, property sales tax, capital funding requests, how requests tie together, tiered priority levels, tax levies, and supporting local organizations and priorities.

## Other Items of Interest

3. [24-1164](#) Council Consideration Request - Urban Wood Reuse Program Assessment and Action Strategy  
[Deputy Mayor Hines]

Deputy Mayor Hines presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$20,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy, to help enable the Urban Forestry team to set up the first formal program within the city, noting the City would contract the work with Cambium Carbon, a unique and innovative company that evaluates and assists in the creation of local regenerative wood supply chains. He concluded by stating that the Solid Waste Management Division intends to match the Council Contingency Fund with an additional \$20,000 to cover the full cost of the work, as it aligns with their goals for waste reduction; and the resolution is expected on the November 5, 2024, meeting agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding wood entering our landfill, preserving large historic trees in the community, revenue opportunity, and adding additional items to a reuse cycle.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [24-1165](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 24, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

Deputy City Manager Hyun Kim stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, October 29, 2024, as Student Government Day, and Native American Heritage Month will be proclaimed next week. He concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and tonight's meeting includes four public hearings, the first public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget, the proposed 2025-2026 Capital Budget and 2025-2030 Capital Facilities Program, the proposed Ad Valorem and Emergency Medical Services tax levies for 2025, and the Transportation Benefit District Budget and Spending Plan.

\* \* \* \* \*

Council Member Bushnell stated he will bring forward an additional amendment to the Home and Tacoma ordinance to adjust the zoning from Urban Residential-1 to Urban Residential-3 for the South 72nd Street and South Alaska Street area.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

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

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**November 05, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:09 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

### Briefing Items

1. [24-1196](#)

Streets Initiative II

[Ramiro Chavez, Director, Public Works]

At approximately 12:10 p.m., Ramiro Chavez, Director, Public Works, provided an overview of the current Streets Initiative I; funding strategies; accomplishments, noting awarded grants; pavement lifecycle; safety, equity, and connectivity; financial model of Streets Initiative II, noting total investment from grants and partnerships, and the delivery of lane miles, bike infrastructure, and residential blocks; aligning project scopes and City goals; roadway and multimodal project criteria, noting the Equity Index, public safety, and access; Council District opportunities, including a map; importance of Streets Initiative II; timeline and next steps; and draft ballot language.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for specific locations and details in each Council District; partnerships and grant match funds; initial opportunities; neighborhood greenway definition; coordination with Vision Zero goals; making Tacoma a 'world class city', noting the relationship with safe streets and transportation; community engagement and education; equity priorities, including benefiting the local economy and workforce; gratitude for including public safety and public health significances; current tax amount in addition to proposed increase; deadlines; impervious surface for streets, noting new green technologies; messaging to the community regarding the comparison to streets throughout Pierce County; and sidewalk improvements, noting constructability.

2. [24-1197](#) Tacoma Municipal Code Title 1 - Proposed Adjustments to Collection of Debts, Settlement of Claims and Filing of Claims  
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

At approximately 1:20 p.m., Chris Bacha, City Attorney, provided an overview on the proposed adjustments to Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Title 1, regarding Claims and Collections procedures, including proposed changes; purpose; settlement of amounts owed; settlement of claims; recommendations; settlement history, noting litigation settled between 2004 and 2024, historic data from 2014 through April 2024, and percentage of dollars approved based upon approval threshold; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding background on Government Performance and Finance Committee recommendation; litigation history and case evaluation; identifying patterns, noting reports and data; transparency for Council and community; hybrid approach; concern about increased settlement authority; history of voting ‘nay’ on settlements that went to Council; and consent agenda versus regular agenda, noting amending the Council Rules of Procedure.

## Other Items of Interest

3. [24-1199](#) Council Consideration Request - An Ordinance to Amend Title 1 of the Municipal Code to include a Climate and Sustainability Commission  
[Council Member Walker]

Council Member Walker presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) for an ordinance to amend Title 1 of the TMC to include a Climate and Sustainability Commission, to enshrine the existing Sustainable Tacoma Commission (STC) in the TMC with some minor updates which are a result of the City’s 2024 Charter review process, discussions with the STC, and Resolution No. 41497, which directed the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee to evaluate potential changes to the STC. She concluded by stating this ordinance aligns with the City Council’s declaration of a climate emergency in 2019 and understanding that climate change is an existential threat to human society, and this desired Council agenda date of this ordinance will be in December 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for leadership and IPS, youth seat age, and stipends.

4. [24-1198](#) Council Consideration Request - Establish a Business Safety and Resilience Program [Council Member Daniels]

Council Member Daniels presented a CCR for a resolution directing the City Manager to create a Business Safety and Resilience Program to launch by July 1, 2025, followed by an ordinance establishing a new section in the TMC for this program. She concluded by stating the program would aim to provide consistent financial and technical assistance to local businesses to assist in reenergizing and strengthening neighborhoods and business districts in ways that help spur and sustain a thriving local economy, and the desired resolution date is November 19, 2024.

Discussion ensued regarding what is currently in the budget; UDAG funding overview; process for sustaining the program; collaboration with the Business Districts; appreciation for the proposal; Economic Development Business Climate Survey in Tacoma; impacts to local businesses, noting showing support; survey results to actions; fiscal impact, noting the funding source in the ordinance; amendments to the proposed budget and budget trade-offs; limitations to public funds or lending of credit; ties with other City programs such as Tidy up Tacoma; tier system for business licenses and fees; and climate action goals for the program.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Woodards stated the City Council will hold a special meeting starting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, November 8, 2024, in Chambers to talk about the post-election budget amendments for the biennial budget, noting this will be the first opportunity to discuss the proposed amendments. She continued by sharing upcoming deadlines, including November 6, 2024, as the date for Council to share their amendments ahead of the November 8, 2024, special meeting where the amendments will be daylighted; final amendments drafted by November 12, 2024; and the first reading at the City Council meeting on November 19, 2024. She concluded by stating if any amendment has any ongoing commitments or costs, reach out to the City Manager, and if any amendment is a one-time funding ask, please be prepared to discuss this at the special meeting.

### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [24-1200](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 31, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Monday, November 11, 2024, as Veterans Appreciation Day, proclaiming November 9-16, 2024, as Stormwater Awareness Week, and proclaiming November 2024 as Native American Heritage Month. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

## Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:40 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes at 3:11 p.m. and 3:26 p.m., and by 10 minutes at 3:43 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:55 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk

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# City of Tacoma

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**November 08, 2024**

**10:00 AM**

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### SPECIAL MEETING

#### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session special meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

#### Briefing Items

1. [24-1225](#) Financial Position Update

At approximately 10:15 a.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided an overview of today's agenda, including reviewing the General Fund structural gap; economic conditions and risk; national trends; expenses by priority, category, and departments and service; non-budgeted overtime; fleet replacements; facility repairs and improvements; temporary shelter site extensions; and fire levy ongoing funding of new equipment and facilities.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for the presentation, one-time fund balance and cash balances, indigent legal services, manufacturing delays, what is included in the Police portion of the General Fund, reserve funds and policy, budget book resources, and third-party liability funding.

2. [24-1226](#) Fire Department Impacts due to Proposition 1 Rejection

At approximately 10:58 a.m., Sionna Stallings-Ala'ilima, Interim Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), provided a brief overview of the TFD proposed 2025-2026 budget adjustments.

Discussion ensued regarding mid-modification process, staffing strategies to manage service and costs, operational risk, maintaining current service levels,

employee and community safety, modifying the budget after passage, mandatory overtime, new recruits and upcoming retirements, rover positions, and number of employees needed.

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The study session special meeting recessed at 11:23 a.m. and reconvened at 11:53 a.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

3. [24-1227](#) Council Budget Amendments for Consideration

At approximately 11:53 a.m., Mayor Woodards presented background on budget amendments. Together, the Council presented their proposed budget amendments and where the funding will come from, including Vision Zero, accessibility ramp for Thea Foss Waterway Esplanade, summer teen late night programs, Grand Cinema building capital campaign, Oasis Youth Center, Rebuilding Hope Center, Metropolitan Development Council Detox, Downtown Tacoma Partnership, anti-graffiti murals, Foss Waterway Seaport Museum, safety and resilience program, McKinley Hill study, Lighthouse Senior Center, Council funding forces, and backfill for TFD rover positions. City Manager Pauli provided a recap of the current deductions in the proposed biennial budget.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding funding sources and finding match dollars, combining requests to best support local businesses and communities, funding allocations and services, economic development opportunities, low interest loans, transition timeline and working with Metro Parks Tacoma on senior services, one time funding versus long term funding, Council Contingency Funds, Council budget, and budgeting based on Council priorities.

\* \* \* \* \*

The study session special meeting recessed at 1:30 p.m. and reconvened at 2:05 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

4. [24-1228](#) 2025-2026 Biennial Budget Discussion

This item was not addressed.

## **Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee**

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the performance of a public employee not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to an executive session at 2:10 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 20 minutes, at 2:41 p.m., and 15 minutes at 3:03 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:21 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session special meeting was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk

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# City of Tacoma

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**November 19, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

#### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Diaz and Hines

Public Utility Board Members:

**Present:** 3 - Claus-McGahan, Gallagher, and O'Loughlin

**Absent:** 2 - Bridges and Watson

Council Member Diaz arrived at 12:02 p.m. and Deputy Mayor Hines arrived at 12:04 p.m.

Council Member Diaz participated virtually.

#### Joint City Council / Tacoma Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [24-1252](#) Post Issuance Compliance Training  
[Michael San Soucie, City Treasurer, Finance]

This item was not addressed.

Council Member Diaz arrived here, at 12:02 p.m.

2. [24-1253](#) State Legislative Update  
[Sonja Hallum, Interim Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Sonja Hallum, Interim Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office (CMO), provided opening remarks on the state legislative update and introduced Alex McBain, Government Affairs Advisor, CMO.

Deputy Mayor Hines arrived here, at 12:04 p.m.

McBain presented the General Government 2025 State Policy Positions, including safety; housing and homelessness; jobs; access; health; and policy and funding priorities, noting capital funding priorities and additional capital funding requests of importance.

Logan Bahr, Government Affairs Advisor, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), presented the 2025 TPU State legislative agenda, including priorities for Tacoma Power, Tacoma Water, and Tacoma Rail; and contact information.

Discussion ensued regarding community engagement, budget and funding, process for requests, Puyallup Avenue Sewer Replacement Project and North Shore Golf Course Stormwater Pond rehabilitation, and preservation and maintenance of the transportation network status update.

\* \* \* \* \*

The joint study session concluded at 12:22 p.m.

The regular study session convened at 12:23 p.m.

**City Council Briefing Items**

There were no City Council briefing items.

**Other Items of Interest**

- 3. [24-1254](#) Council Consideration Request - Hilltop Holiday Event  
[Council Member Scott]

Council Member Scott presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$5,000 of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor the Hilltop holiday event, a family-friendly community focused event hosted by the Hilltop Action Coalition aimed at bringing people together to celebrate the season. She concluded by stating as a sponsor of the event, the City’s name and logo would be included on advertising materials and help ensure that this event, food, and drinks from local businesses are free to the general public and making it more accessible for all Community members.

Discussion ensued regarding date and time of event and festive decorations.

4. [24-1255](#) Council Consideration Request - Senior Center Transition Support  
[Council Member Sadalge]

Council Member Sadalge presented a CCR to allocate \$30,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support the transition of the City’s Senior Center services from Lighthouse and Beacon Senior Centers to Metro Parks Tacoma facilities. He stated this collaboration aims to leverage the resources and expertise of both organizations to provide a wider range of programs, activities, and resources for the City’s growing senior population, including enhanced programs and activities, expanded reach, increased accessibility, and strategic partnerships.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for leadership and importance of the partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma, setting up for a smooth transition, extension of locations, and highlighting the Council’s support for the seniors in the community.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Woodards reminded Council Members of the special meeting tomorrow, starting at 9:00 a.m. to continue discussing the next biennial budget, including proposed motions will be heard to direct the City Manager to prepare any amendments for consideration at the December 3, 2024, meeting. She concluded by stating the goal is for all amendments to be presented as motions.

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Council Member Rumbaugh presented a proposed amendment on preservation of trees, including the protection of large trees in the urban residential districts.

Council Member Sadalge presented proposed amendments to Home in Tacoma Phase 2, including an upzoning, and additional clarification on homeownership and incentive.

Discussion ensued regarding clarification on the amendments, including resident requirements within the bonus units and Average Median Income (AMI) restrictions; enforcement of title restrictions; clarification on separating the parcel; and incentives.

Council Member Daniels presented a proposed amendment to Home in Tacoma Phase 2, noting the similarity to the previous amendment,

except it removes the incentives unless the homeowner is under 115 percent AMI.

Discussion ensued regarding the under-115 percent AMI restrictions and qualifications, including on the sale and/or rent of accessory dwelling units and monitoring; housing preservation and creating homeownership; income distribution in the City; process on amendment voting, noting whether policy items will be considered separately or all together; and the need for housing units at all affordability levels.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [24-1256](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 14, 2024

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming, Wednesday, November 20, 2024, as Transgender Day of Remembrance, proclaiming Saturday, November 30, 2024, as Small Business Saturday, and proclaiming November 17-23, 2024, as National Apprenticeship Week. She concluded by stating there are no modifications to the agenda and there are two public hearings, one on the proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget, and another on the proposed 2025-2026 Capital Budget and 2025-2030 Capital Facilities Program; and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## Closed Session - Labor Strategy

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The closed session was held after adjournment of the study session.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk

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# City of Tacoma

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**December 03, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott and Walker

**Absent:** 2 - Daniels and Mayor Woodards

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

### Briefing Items

1. [24-1283](#)

Tacoma Venues and Events Excise Tax Update

[Adam Cook, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events]

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Adam Cook, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events (TVE), provided an overview of the TVE excise tax update.

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

Cook provided a background, including community event grant funding; issues, noting funding goals and options, impacted venues and sellers, starting dates for tax collection and distribution, potential consumer impacts, General Fund (GF) impact, and estimated tax revenue; proposed revisions; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff and the City Events and Recognitions Committee; GF impact, including revenue account explanation; exemptions; funding model; and potential risks in recruiting future events.

1a. [24-1319](#)

Proposed Budget Amendments Discussion

At approximately 12:21 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, presented the proposed budget amendments, including adjustments to the 2025-2026 operating budget and capital budget, noting fund adjustments and fund amendments, and appropriation changes.

Discussion ensued regarding Therapeutic Court Program grant revenue; Participatory Budgeting Project funding specification, including budget structure; and grant funding.

Council Members presented their proposed budget amendments, including an amendment to address the structural deficit, noting reducing staffing levels but keeping programmatic funding, flexibility in future budget years, and impacts of tariffs; an amendment to address additional needs of the structural deficit, including eliminating the reliance on cash reserves for the 2026-2027 budget, reducing staffing, and continuing discussion in early 2025 regarding programmatic cuts; and an amendment for staff reduction for 27 positions and repurpose that funding to Tacoma Fire Department (TFD) overtime, and address the other TFD issues.

Discussion continued regarding clarification on fiscal amounts; programmatic versus personnel cuts, including their connection, additional revenues, and specification of the budget process, noting biennial budget, expenses, reappropriation, and uncertain impacts from the economy; shortage of shelter bed funding; funding for specific staff positions; cash balance in current proposed budget; the need for future talks of examining programs; the difference in Council Member amendments; impact on staff cuts and process; where the excess funding should go, including either structural deficit or TFD; when decisions need to be made, and the impact of waiting; information from previous year’s budget cuts; community engagement and feedback of programmatic cuts; timeline for voting on amendments; staffing overtime budgets; and the City’s valued services.

**Other Items of Interest**

\* \* \* \* \*

Council Member Walker provided remarks on the proposed amendment to the Transportation Benefit District (TBD) Governing Board Resolution TDB 023, which states that at least 15 percent of the annual revenue be used for safety improvements including but not limited to sidewalks, streetlights, and bulb outs, as authorized by law.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [24-1284](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 27, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda; two modifications to tonight's agenda, continuing Ordinance No. 28997, to the December 17, 2024, Council meeting; and the motion to amend TBD Governing Board Resolution TDB 023. She concluded by stating tonight's meeting includes a public hearing on the proposed amendments to Title 13 of the Tacoma Municipal Code and community forum.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk

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# City of Tacoma

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**December 10, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:27 p.m.

### Briefing Items

1. [24-1323](#)

Homeless Strategy Update

[Caleb Carbone, Homeless Strategy, Systems and Services Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Caleb Carbone, Homeless Strategy and Services Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided opening remarks on the homeless strategy and presented an overview; inclement weather response shelter capacities; homeless strategy alignment, including both Washington State and the City's five-year strategies; shelter update; strategy implementation, including 2024 highlights and goals; summary of measurements; and by-name list, including list management and demographics breakdown.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:27 p.m.

Carbone concluded with 2025 strategy implementation, including focus and goals.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for the data and the extend of the work; shelter capacities, including Saint Vincent de Paul and Brotherhood Rise locations; safe parking availability and funding; request for cost breakdown by location; expanded funding options; Pierce County's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) updates; 2024 goals, including

ensuring affordable housing; specifics on how the by-name list is created and comparison between HMIS; definition of shelter types, including enhanced services; and funding impacts.

- 2. [24-1333](#) 2025-2026 Budget Deficit  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 12:55 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented on the proposed budget for the General Fund gap in 2027-2028, including considerations and risks.

Discussion ensued regarding overtime allotment, use of reserves and fund balances, inclement weather resources and funding, structural gap versus one-time expenses, ways to generate revenue, prioritizing addressing the structural gap, historic review of services and funding sources, and planning for emergent needs.

### Other Items of Interest

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Mayor Woodards presented options for 2025 cancelled study sessions and meetings that will come before the City Council as a resolution next week.

Discussion ensued regarding legal holidays that fall on Tuesdays and adding additional cancellations around important known dates.

- 2A. [24-1359](#) Council Consideration Request - Special Olympics Sponsorship  
[Council Member Walker]

Council Member Walker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$15,000 of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor Special Olympics Washington, including many athletic competitions here in Tacoma.

\* \* \* \* \*

Deputy Mayor Hines provided information on a letter he is working on from community feedback on senior services and the transition to Metro Parks that he plans to share with the full City Council next week.

\* \* \* \* \*

Council Member Bushnell shared his plan to bring forward a budget amendment at this evening’s meeting to address fire services.

Discussion ensued regarding fire staffing personnel costs, mid-biennium budget modifications, brown outs, staff burnout, funding sources and reductions, ways to close the structural gap, one-time funding sources used for ongoing expenses, state law on passing a balanced budget, and personnel costs for positions that are partially funded by the General Fund.

### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

### Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 3. [24-1327](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, December 5, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda; and two changes are expected to tonight’s meeting agenda, an amendment for Ordinance No. 29001 to correct a clerical error, and a proposed substitute for Ordinance No. 29002 to address fire services funding.

### Executive Session - Pending Litigation & Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss pending litigation and review the qualifications of a public employee, not to exceed 60 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:31 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes at 3:32 p.m., and at 3:49 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened,  
at 4:04 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

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**December 17, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

### Briefing Items

1. [24-1361](#) Pierce Transit Destination 2045 Long Range Plan  
[Darin Stavish, Principal Planner; Anna Petersen, Senior Planner, Pierce Transit]

At approximately 12:08 p.m., Mike Griffith, CEO, Pierce Transit (PT), provided a brief introduction for the PT 2045 Long Range Plan and introduced Darin Stavish, Principal Planner, PT. Stavish presented an overview; growth scenarios, including different funding assumptions, where service improvements occur for existing and new routes, and projected growth, noting in population, housing, and employment; equity areas; Home in Tacoma overlap in targeted areas; fast, frequent, and reliable network, including stream or bus rapid transit; and advances in technology.

Discussion ensued regarding equity areas, including the City's Equity Index; appreciation for the teamwork and leadership from Council Member Walker; growth scenarios, including process for new routes; coordination with Sound Transit; Northeast Tacoma limited routes, including coordination with King County and the Twin Lakes park and ride; Port of Tacoma ridership; specifics on the four growth scenarios; funding and budget; and pedestrian safety.

2. [24-1362](#) City Website Redesign Project Update  
[Amy Clancy, Director; Goldin Doles, Digital Manager, Media and Communications Office]

At approximately 12:40 p.m., Amy Clancy, Director, Media and

Communications Office (MCO), provided opening remarks on the City website redesign project and introduced Enzhou Wang, Assistant Director, Information Technology, and Goldin Doles, Digital Manager, MCO. Doles presented an overview; project goals; background, including website assessment, vendor selection, and page reduction; and next steps. Wang continued with implementation, including new domain [tacoma.gov](http://tacoma.gov); and Doles concluded with design prototypes.

Discussion ensued regarding excitement and appreciation for staff; email naming convention; continual webpage review and management; search tools and searchability; and launch timeline.

3. [24-1363](#)

Alternative Response Quarterly Update

[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services; Sionna Stallings-Alailima, Interim Fire Chief; Avery Moore, Police Chief]

At approximately 1:07 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on the alternative response quarterly update, including background, response focus areas, expanded response methods, and response spectrum; and introduced Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services; Cassie Hallstone and Aleesia Morales, Program Managers, Tacoma Fire (TFD); Corey Darlington, Police Captain, Tacoma Police (TPD); and Amita Lonial, Director, Tacoma Public Library (TPL). Griffith presented Homeless Engagement and Alternatives Liaisons (HEAL) project overview, fourth quarter updates, and HEAL dashboard. Together, Hallstone and Morales continued with the Holistic Outreach Promoting Engagement (HOPE) project overview; updates, including staffing; community collaboration and data collection; and fourth quarter data, including demographics and all dispatched calls. Captain Darlington presented Community Service Officers (CSO) project overview, including hiring updates, training milestones, and dashboard. Lonial presented on TPL's patron crisis and de-escalation team project overview. City Manager Elizabeth Pauli concluded with the timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for all alternative responses; proposed HOPE team staff changes during time gaps, including services provided to fill needs; data on where calls for service are coming from, including data-informed decisions; detox programs and services delay; decreased TPD pending call times; trends and budget impacts on first responders; potential additional services provided; funding and billing options; CSO dispatch process; and multi-agency assistance support.

## Other Items of Interest

4. [24-1365](#) Council Action Memorandum - 2025 Proposed Cancelled Council Meetings  
[Mayor Woodards]

Deputy Mayor Hines presented a City Council Action Memorandum for a resolution approving the cancellation of 11 regular City Council meetings and study sessions in 2025:

- Tuesday, January 21
- Tuesday, February 18
- Tuesday, March 11
- Tuesday, May 27
- Tuesday, September 2
- Tuesday, September 23
- Tuesday, November 4
- Wednesday, November 12
- Tuesday, November 25
- Tuesday, December 23
- Tuesday, December 30

Discussion ensued regarding the cancellation of study session and standing committee meetings on the proposed dates, including workload of standing committees; process for adding a meeting back to the schedule; and the potential to hold special council meetings.

5. [24-1366](#) Council Consideration Request - Grease Interceptor Education Requirement  
[Council Member Diaz]

Council Member Diaz presented a Council Consideration Request for an ordinance to establish the distribution requirements for grease interceptor educational flyers at the time of entering into a lease agreement or purchasing a property that will be occupied by any food or beverage related business, to educate commercial tenants or property owners on the conditions of private grease interceptors. She stated current regulations may require equipment that exceeds the expectation of the business owner which may cause a significant delay in opening the business, a need to adjust the business plan, or may make the project infeasible and the disclosure and information shall be provided to the potential lessee or buyers prior to signing of a lease or completing a purchase of the property.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for Council Member Diaz's leadership; current resources, programs, and calculations; partnership with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department; and continued work to ensure

education and clarity on requirements.

- 6. [24-1367](#) Draft Letter to Metro Parks Board Regarding Senior Services  
[Deputy Mayor Hines]

Deputy Mayor Hines presented a proposed letter from the City Council to the Metro Parks Board Commissioners to share feedback the Council received from seniors in the community regarding changes to senior services programs in partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma, including that this change is difficult and the City recognizes the challenges involved in these transitions. He concluded by stating this partnership will bring significant benefits to Tacoma’s senior residents and enhanced and expanded services to more seniors at more locations.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation, support, and continued collaboration with Metro Parks Tacoma.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Woodards reminded Council Members they sent additional proposed City Charter amendments to Council standing committees and the Committee of the Whole for further development per Resolution No. 41497, and those discussions will continue to take place in 2025.

### **Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

### **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

- 7. [24-1368](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, December 12, 2024  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight’s meeting agenda, proclaiming Wednesday, December 18, 2024, as International Migrants Day, and one modification to the agenda, to move the letter to Metro Parks to a meeting in January. She concluded by stating tonight’s meeting includes a public hearing on the declaration of surplus and sale of approximately 113 acres of Tacoma Water property, and community forum.

## **Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee**

**MOTION:** Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 60 minutes.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Walker.

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 3:11 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 30 minutes at 4:11 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 4:41 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk

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# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

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

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**January 07, 2025**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Council Members Diaz participated virtually.

Council Member Scott initially participated virtually, and arrived in-person at 12:20 p.m.

### Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee

**MOTION:** Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 10 minutes.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Walker.

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 12:06 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 12:20 p.m.

## Briefing Items

1. [24-1389](#) City Council Budget Reduction and Revenue Strategy  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Katie Johnston, Budget Officer,  
Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 12:20 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on the budget reduction and revenue strategy, including an agenda and work session road map; and introduced Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance, and Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget. Cherullo presented the fiscal sustainability taskforce, including background, noting the 2013 final report; recommendations and definitions; progress, including current status; implementation; and existing issues. Johnston presented revenues, including major General Fund revenues; strategy; property tax, including scenario estimates and levy rate for services comparison; expenses, including General Fund expense drivers and costs for full time employees; and balancing strategies, including how to close the gap, new General Fund revenues, other funding sources and restructures, and ongoing reductions. City Manager Pauli concluded with the problem statement and General Fund gap in 2027-2028.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding timelines; explanation on fire benefit district charges in other jurisdictions; levy rules and growth rates; appreciation for staff work and the provided materials; property taxes, noting the process for increases, actuals and estimates, and limits and processes around the United States; new state legislation impacts; major General Fund revenue projection explanation, including one-time and ongoing revenue growth; cost of living in Tacoma versus other jurisdictions; tax increases requiring a vote of the people; and agenda topics and process for upcoming regular and special meetings.

## Other Items of Interest

2. [24-1391](#) Council Consideration Request - Decriminalization of Investigation, Arrest, and Prosecution of Entheogen-Related Activities  
[Council Member Bushnell]

Council Member Bushnell presented a Council Consideration Request for a resolution declaring the investigation, arrest, and prosecution of anyone engaging in entheogen-related activities should be among the City's lowest law enforcement priorities, including a definition of entheogens; benefits in treating depression, severe anxiety, problematic substance abuse,

post-traumatic stress, end-of-life anxiety, grief isolation, and intergenerational trauma; and the goal for low enforcement priority and no City funds or resources would be used.

Discussion ensued regarding support, clarification on business opportunities in the future, and federal substance classification.

### Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

\* \* \* \* \*

Deputy Mayor Hines stated a letter to Metro Parks on senior services will be on the agenda for this evening's Council meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Woodards stated the annual Council Member appointments will go out in the weekly packet and on the agenda for the January 14, 2025, Council meeting.

### Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 3. [24-1392](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council January 2, 2025 [Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, January 7, 2025, as Cambodian Educational and Cultural Exchange Heritage Day; and proclaiming January 2025 as National Mentoring Month; and no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

### Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 45 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:25 p.m.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes at 3:10 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened,  
at 3:32 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

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**January 14, 2025**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:18 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Bushnell

### Briefing Items

- 1.**      [25-0023](#)      Budget Reduction and Revenue Strategy - Context Setting  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance; Reid Bennion, Interim Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 12:19 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided context for the budget reduction and revenue strategy, including City Council material changes and updates.
- 2.**      [25-0024](#)      Budget Reduction and Revenue Strategy - Current Programs and Services  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance; Reid Bennion, Interim Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 12:26 p.m., City Manager Pauli presented the draft criteria for prioritizing budget reductions, including service impacts, whether services are mandated or provided through other funds or entities, and alternative funding options.

Discussion ensued regarding non-departmental departments, including expenses; and revenue strategy.
- 3.**      [25-0025](#)      Budget Reduction and Revenue Strategy - Parameters and Criteria  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance; Reid Bennion, Interim Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 12:36 p.m., City Manager Pauli presented an example

reduction, including the purpose and criteria. Adam Cook, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events, presented an example of cost reduction of funding for 4th of July fireworks display, including an overview, funding options, and alternatives.

Katie Johnston, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, presented an example reduction of General Fund support while maintaining complementary services and housing services through alternative services, including an overview, alternative revenue and funding, and services provided by other government or non-governmental entities.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding additional criteria, including likely success of alternatives, potential savings benefit, and cost and levels of services; long term effects; potential tax increases; off-set of costs; fund sources and sustainability; duration; and next steps and timeline.

### Other Items of Interest

- 4. [25-0026](#) Council Consideration Request - Golden Gloves Sponsorship [Council Member Hines]

Council Member Hines presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$10,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support the 76th Annual Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament, presented by the Tacoma-Pierce Athletic Commission (TAC). He stated this event is the longest running amateur boxing tournament west of the Mississippi River and helps raise support to TAC’s Golden Gloves Boxing program and the Tacoma Boxing Club, designed to encourage a positive lifestyle for at-risk youth and help provide low-income athletes across South Tacoma and citywide with access to financial assistance and support for engaging in boxing and athletic activity.

Discussion ensued regarding the event date of January 25, 2025.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mayor Woodards stated the January 17, 2025, Committee of the Whole is cancelled and will be held January 24, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

\* \* \* \* \*

Council Member Hines stated the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University basketball game is this evening and encourages community to come out and watch.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [25-0027](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, January 9, 2025  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Monday, January 20, 2025, as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, and proclaiming January 2025 as Whole Child Month. She concluded by stating there is one modification to tonight's agenda, to move the public hearing on the declaration of surplus and sale of Tacoma Water property to earlier on the agenda, and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## Executive Session - Pending Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Daniels moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 43.20.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 15 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Bushnell

The City Council convened to executive session at 1:37 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 10 minutes at 1:55 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:07 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

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Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**January 28, 2025**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 6 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Sadalge, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 3 - Hines, Rumbaugh and Scott

Council Member Scott arrived at 12:01 p.m. and Council Member Hines arrived at 12:16 p.m.

### Briefing Items

1. [25-0012](#) City of Tacoma Budget  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance; Reid Bennion, Interim Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

This item was not addressed.

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

2. [25-0075](#) Interim Executive Appointment Process  
[Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources]

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Mayor Woodards presented that the City Manager announced her intent to retire on July 1, 2025, and discussed the decision for an interim executive appointment. Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources (HR), introduced Cheryl Bidleman, Assistant Director, and Keith Gully, Talent Acquisition Manager, HR; and presented an overview of the City Manager appointment process, including timeline, process, focus, and priorities. Gully presented City Manager competencies, including the Korn Ferry competencies. Fritz concluded with next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the twelve-to-eighteen-month timeline; overlap and relationship the role has with the ongoing budget discussion; and Council priorities including, adaptability, manage change

under pressure, knowledge on the state and local level, strategic thinking regarding generating revenue, communication skills, navigate crisis, and assist with transitions.

Council Member Hines arrived here, at 12:16 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding outcome driven priorities; continuity and streamlining the process; interim City Manager potential interested in continuing to serve as City Manager; build belief in trust, including expectation versus reality; and building good workplace culture.

The study session recessed at 12:29 p.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding the Korn Ferry competency selections, including individual priorities and preferences, and discussed selection for the top five:

- Instill trust
- Communicates effectively
- Action orientated
- Ensures accountability
- Cultivates innovation

Discussion concluded with timeline, public involvement, and past processes and practices.

## **Other Items of Interest**

There were no other items of interest.

## **Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

## **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

3. [25-0076](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, January 23, 2025  
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Wednesday, January 29, 2025, as Lunar New Year, and recognizing JustServe. She concluded by stating no changes are expected to tonight's agenda and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

## **Executive Session - Pending Litigation**

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Daniels moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending and potential litigation, not to exceed 15 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Rumbaugh

The City Council convened to executive session at 1:02 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 30 minutes at 1:18 p.m. and at 1:49 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:28 p.m.

## **Closed Session - Labor Strategy**

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Daniels moved to convene to closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 (a and b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 15 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Rumbaugh

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk