



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 3423 3126
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/84834233126 Passcode: 349099
May 16, 2023
5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Walker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 5:01 p.m.

Mayor Woodards participated virtually.

FLAG SALUTE

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

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Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 5:01 p.m.

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The flag salute was led by Council Member Diaz.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. [23-0510](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board study session, April 26, 2023.
2. [23-0511](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board meeting, April 26, 2023.
3. [23-0498](#) Minutes of the Tacoma Arts Commission, April 10, 2023.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Deputy Mayor Walker stated that the letter expressing support for the legislature to pass a measure during the special session to address controlled substances laws in Washington State will be replaced.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 4. [23-0496](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, November 29, 2022.
- 5. [23-0497](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, December 6, 2022.
- 6. [23-0513](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, December 13, 2022.
- 7. [23-0514](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, December 20, 2022.
- 8. [23-0512](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, January 10, 2023.
- 9. [23-0495](#) Minutes of the Committee of the Whole special meeting, November 1, 2022.
- 10. [23-0509](#) A letter from the City Council expressing support for the legislature to pass a measure during the special session to address controlled substances laws in Washington State.

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

- 11. [ORD28877](#) An ordinance vacating portions of South 23rd Street and South Cushman Avenue, to cure existing building encroachments.
(SoHo Properties Inc. dba SoHo Properties 2 Inc; File No. 124.1439)
[Jeff H. Capell, Hearing Examiner]

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including final reading of Ordinance No. 28877.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to consider Item 10, relating to the letter expressing support for the legislature to pass a measure during the special session to address controlled substances laws in Washington State, separately from the Consent Agenda.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

10. [23-0509](#)

A letter from the City Council expressing support for the legislature to pass a measure during the special session to address controlled substances laws in Washington State.

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to replace Item 10, with a new letter expressing gratitude for passing a measure that addresses controlled substances laws in Washington State.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. Item 10, as replaced, was declared adopted.

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

CONSENT AGENDA (Continued)

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including final reading of Ordinance No. 28877. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. [23-0501](#) Proclaiming May 21-27, 2023, as National Public Works Week.

Deputy Mayor Walker proclaimed May 21-27, 2023, as National Public Works Weeks and presented the proclamation to Josh Diekmann, Interim Director, Public Works.

13. [23-0502](#) Proclaiming May 2023 as Building Safety Month.

Deputy Mayor Walker proclaimed May 2023 as Building Safety Month and presented the proclamation to Chris Seaman, Principal Engineer, Planning and Development Services.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment began at 5:14 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received one written comment for Public Comment on Ordinance No. 28884, regarding amending the Biennial Operating Budget, and Ordinance No. 28885, regarding amending the Capital Budget.

No individuals addressed the City Council.

Public Comment ended at 5:14 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

14. [RES41196](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of a Multi-Family Housing Eight-Year Limited Property Tax Exemption Agreement with 1918 MLK LLC, for the development of six market-rate, for-sale housing units, located at 1918-1928 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, in the Downtown Regional Growth Center.
[Debbie Bingham, Project Manager; Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt Resolution No. 41196.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

15. [RES41197](#) A resolution acknowledging the devastating impact of gun violence in our country and in the City of Tacoma; naming the disparity of those impacts on Black youths, boys, and children; affirming our ongoing commitment to decreasing violence in the community; and directing the City Manager to implement a range of immediate actions related to bolstering community safety and the wellbeing of Tacoma’s youth.
[Council Member Daniels]

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to adopt Resolution No. 41197.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

16. [ORD28881](#) A supplemental ordinance authorizing the execution of an amendment to the Note Purchase Agreement related to the City’s Electric System Subordinate Revenue Note, Series 2020 (Taxable); and delegating the authority to approve the final terms of the amendment.
[Michelle Brown, Financial Planning Supervisor; Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28881. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

17. [ORD28882](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for employees represented by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, the nonrepresented classifications of Municipal Court Judge and Court Commissioner, and other changes to reflect the organizational structure.
[Kari L. Louie, Assistant Director; Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28882 was set over for final reading next week.

18. [ORD28883](#) An ordinance granting a non-exclusive ten-year telecommunications franchise agreement to Sprint Communications Company, L.P., to construct, operate, and maintain a telecommunications system in City right-of-way areas.
[Jeff Lueders, Division Manager; Amy Clancy, Director, Media and Communications Office]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28883 was set over for final reading on June 6, 2023.

19. [ORD28884](#) An ordinance amending the Biennial Operating Budget of the City for fiscal years 2023-2024 for recommended budget adjustments that were not identifiable before the approval of the 2023-2024 adopted budget.
[Katie Johnston, Budget Officer; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28884 was set over for final reading next week.

20. [ORD28885](#) An ordinance amending the Capital Budget of the City for fiscal years 2023-2024 for recommended budget adjustments and Council-approved capital projects with outstanding balances.
[Katie Johnston, Budget Officer; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28885 was set over for final reading next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

There was no report.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Government Performance and Finance Committee

Council Member Hines, Chair of the Government Performance and Finance Committee, reported at the May 2, 2023, meeting, the Committee considered and recommended volunteers to serve on the "For" and "Against" Committees for Proposition No. 1 concerning the restoration of the City’s emergency medical services property tax levy, and received presentations on the Sprint telecommunications franchise agreement and the SAP Now! technology project; and at today's meeting, the Committee conducted interviews for the Public Utility Board. He concluded by stating the next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Audit Advisory Board, held in a hybrid format on June 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., and will include interviews for the Board of Ethics, and presentations on the 2021 Transportation Benefit District exit financial and accountability audit and 2022 audit entrance conference, and phase 2 of the accessory dwelling unit accelerator.

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Council Member Ushka announced that the Planning and Development Services (PDS) Long-Range Planning team earned an Excellence in Planning award in the category of implementation for the McKinley Hill Neighborhood Plan from the American Planning Association Washington Chapter and the Planning Association of Washington, noting the award acknowledges the plan's focus on quick implementation. She concluded by stating that the plan will continue with support from the Neighborhood Planning Program and partnership with the McKinley Hill neighbors, and was developed after more than a year of community engagement; that Tacoma is one of six state-wide projects to receive an award; and expressed appreciation to PDS staff.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk