



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

December 19, 2023

5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Rumbaugh, Walker and
Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

FLAG SALUTE

Deputy Mayor Walker 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.

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Walker.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

There were no items filed in the City Clerk's Office.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Mayor Woodards stated there are two modifications to the agenda, to add a letter regarding the Puget Sound Gateway under the Consent Agenda, and to add a settlement motion under the Regular Agenda.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to suspend Rule 4A of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma to amend the agenda as follows:

- to add a letter from the City regarding the Puget Sound Gateway on the Consent Agenda as Item 3A; and
- add a settlement motion as Item 7A on the Regular Agenda.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 6 - Blocker, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Bushnell, Daniels and Ushka

CONSENT AGENDA

1. [23-1232](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, May 23, 2023.
2. [23-1233](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, June 6, 2023.
3. [23-1231](#) A letter from the City Council to the Charter Review Committee.
- 3A. [23-1257](#) A letter from the City Council regarding the Puget Sound Gateway.

PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

4. [RES41320](#) A resolution awarding a contract to Seva Workshop LLC, in the amount of \$745,000, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from various departmental funds, for the 2024 update to the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation Master Plan, for an initial contract of two years - Specification No. PL23-0065F.
[Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner; Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services]

RESOLUTIONS

5. [RES41321](#) A resolution accepting grants and loans from the Puget Sound Regional Council, National Highway Performance Program, and the Washington State Public Works Board, in the total amount of \$17,684,908; for deposit into the Capital Project funds, together with \$470,750 in matching City funds, budgeted from the Streets Initiative Fund, for a cumulative total of \$18,155,658, to fund various Public Works projects, including pedestrian facilities, trails, bikeways, safe routes to schools, roadway improvements, traffic signals, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure improvements.
[Darius Thompson, Interim Assistant Division Manager; Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Public Works]

6. [RES41322](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of a grant agreement with the Pierce County Conservation Futures Grant program, in the amount up to \$264,070, plus eligible costs; accepting and depositing said sum into an escrow account, and further authorizing matching funds in the amount of up to \$35,930, budgeted from the Stormwater Fund, for a maximum total of \$300,000, plus eligible costs, to fund the appraisal and purchase of 15.5 acres for the purpose of protecting natural habitat and providing stormwater benefit; and further authorizing the execution and closing of purchase and sale agreement and conservation agreement for said parcel.
[John Burk, P.E., Science and Engineering Division Manager;
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services]

PAYMENTS

7. [23-1227](#) Date Range - 11/20/2023 to 12/03/2023
Payroll in the amount of \$20,995,369.21; Payments in the amount of \$29,082,878.05; for a total of \$50,078,247.26.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 41320 through 41322 and the Puget Sound Gateway Coalition letter.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 41320 through 41322 and the Puget Sound Gateway Coalition letter. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.

Ayes: 6 - Blocker, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards
Absent: 3 - Bushnell, Daniels and Ushka

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no proclamations, recognitions, presentations, or announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment began at 5:03 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received two written comments for public comment, regarding Resolution No. 41324.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Tim Smith, regarding Resolution No. 41320.

Public comment ended at 5:07 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 7A. [23-1258](#) A motion to authorize the City’s full and final settlement of all personal injury claims against the City in the matter of Jacqueline Mayo v. City of Tacoma and Mikael Johnson, Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 22-2-08036-7, related to a vehicle-pedestrian collision, upon payment by the City in the amount of \$35,000.00.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to authorize the City’s full and final settlement of all personal injury claims against the City in the matter of Jacqueline Mayo v. City of Tacoma and Mikael Johnson, Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 22-2-08036-7, related to a vehicle-pedestrian collision, upon payment by the City in the amount of \$35,000.00.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

8. [23-1230](#) A motion may be considered to confirm the appointment of Chris Bacha as City Attorney, effective January 2, 2024.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to confirm the appointment of Chris Bacha as City Attorney, effective January 2, 2024.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

9. [23-1229](#) A motion may be considered to confirm the appointment of Catherine Marx as Retirement System Director, effective January 29, 2024.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to confirm the appointment of Catherine Marx as Retirement System Director, effective January 29, 2024.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

APPOINTMENTS

10. [RES41323](#) A resolution reappointing individuals to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. [Nicole Emery, City Clerk; Chris Bacha, Interim City Attorney]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41323.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

11. [RES41324](#) A resolution appointing individuals to the 2024 Charter Review Committee to serve until such time as the final reports and recommendations are made on or before May 7, 2024. [Nicole Emery, City Clerk; Chris Bacha, Interim City Attorney]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41324.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

12. [RES41325](#) A resolution awarding a contract to Ceccanti, Inc., in the amount of \$4,144,937.00, plus applicable taxes, plus a 20 percent contingency, budgeted from the Wastewater Fund, for construction of the South Tacoma Pump Station Rehabilitation Project Phase 2, for a projected contract total of \$4,973,924.40 - Specification No. ES23-0332F.
[Lance Bunch, P.E., Civil Engineer; Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41325.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

13. [RES41326](#) A resolution awarding a contract to SAP Public Services, Inc., in the amount of \$12,500,000, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from the Information Systems Fund, for an initial contract of seven years with the option to renew, for Cloud Services, software, and licenses - Direct Negotiation.
[Grace Brosnon, Assistant Director; Daniel Key, Director, Information Technology]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41326.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

RESOLUTIONS

14. [RES41327](#) A resolution ratifying the City Manager's Declaration of Emergency for the Hylebos Bridge to allow application for a loan from the Washington State Public Works Board, in the amount of \$1,000,000, to fund emergency repairs.
[Jack Niehuser, P.E., Engineering Division Manager;
Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Public Works]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41327.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

15. [ORD28921](#) An ordinance amending the current non-exclusive Right of Use Agreement and Franchise with Pierce Transit, extending the renewal term an additional five-years and amending the current expiration from January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2029, for transit-related infrastructure within City rights-of-way.
[Joseph Romero, Senior Real Estate Specialist;
Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Public Works]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28921. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

16. [ORD28927](#) An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 28910, relating to the Tax and License Code, to include an additional exhibit amending Municipal Code Chapter 6B.10 and 6B.20, effective November 13, 2023.

[Danielle Larson, Tax and License Division Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28927. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

17. [ORD28928](#) An ordinance amending Subtitle 6B of the Municipal Code, relating to the License Code, by amending Section 6B.10.030, entitled "License definitions", and Section 6B.10.190, entitled "Investigations and background checks", to meet Federal Bureau of Investigation requirements to allow the City to conduct nationwide background checks for certain license applicants.

[Danielle Larson, Tax and License Division Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28928. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

18. [ORD28929](#) An ordinance amending Subtitle 6A of the Municipal Code, relating to the Tax Code, by amending Section 6A.30.065, entitled "Job credits", to narrow the definition of a green job and increase the value of the green job tax credit from \$250 to \$1,000 per year; and amending various sections throughout Chapter 6A.30, to update language, address areas of inconsistency, and comply with state law.

[Danielle Larson, Tax and License Division Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28929. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

19. [ORD28930](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 6A.30 of the Municipal Code, relating to Business and Occupation Tax, by adding a new Section 6A.30.067, entitled "Job Credit - Work Opportunity", to provide a new \$1,000 job tax credit for employers adding a new position and filling the position with an individual with a disability, as identified through the vocational referral in the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit.
[Council Member Blocker]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28930. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

20. [ORD28931](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.07 of the Municipal Code, relating to Equity in Contracting, by amending various sections, and by repealing Section 1.07.050, entitled "Approval as a Certified Business", to replace outdated elements of the former Small Business Enterprise Program and clarify expectations for review of the program.
[Kacee Woods, Program Manager; Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28931 was set over for final reading on January 9, 2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Pauli provided an update on activity related to vehicle theft and dangerous driving, noting two vehicles were impounded and are being processed for evidence, two community members are believed to be involved, and multiple warrants are pending as a result of the investigations. Pauli also announced the City applied for a grant for \$1 million from the Puget Sound Regional Council Equity Pilot funds for the South 38th Street and Cedar Street Pedestrian Safety Improvement project; and the Office of Equity and Human Rights has been awarded \$600,000 through the U.S. Department of Transportation Safe Streets Roads for All planning grant program for supplemental planning of the City's Americans with Disabilities Act transition plan, noting staff anticipates enacting improvements in the Spring of 2024.

Pauli concluded by announcing that on March 1, 2024, Environmental Services will host the Ground to Sound film festival in collaboration with Foster's Creative and the University of Washington Tacoma, which is aimed to promote environmental stewardship, noting that participants will be invited to submit short films related to communicating the necessity of preventing stormwater pollution.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Government Performance and Finance Committee

Council Member Hines, Chair of the Government Performance and Finance (GPF) Committee, reported at the December 5, 2023, special meeting, the Committee held interviews for the Charter Review Committee, of which six were selected by the City Council; at the December 19, 2023, meeting, the Committee received a Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption program review and a briefing on Tacoma Municipal Code utility tax chapters. He concluded by stating the next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on January 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., and will include elections of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair and a discussion of upcoming topics.

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Mayor Woodards announced a ground breaking ceremony for Patsy Surh Place, a new construction project located in the Lincoln District, this project was brought to fruition by the Low Income Housing Institute in partnership with the Asia Pacific Cultural Center, providing affordable housing for seniors, community spaces, and other amenities. Mayor Woodards concluded by inviting community members to the ground breaking ceremony on December 20, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., located at 711 South 38th Street.

Recognition of outgoing Council Member Blocker

Mayor Woodards recognized Council Member Blocker for serving eight years with the City Council and for his work that has impacted the City and presented the proclamation, a photo of the Council, a plaque for his service, and a personalized gift to Council Member Blocker.

Deputy Mayor Walker recounted on her time working with Council Member Blocker, noting his grace; the knowledge he has passed down; and his leadership skills, specifically during the 2020 virtual meetings; and thanked him for his service.

Council Member Rumbaugh expressed her appreciation for Council Member Blocker, noting how he is a genuine person and that

while they did not agree on everything they cultivated a strong friendship through their work together.

Council Member Diaz recounted the length of her friendship with Council Member Blocker spanning back to before they joined the City Council, the work they did together, and shared her excitement to see how Council Member Blocker's legacy will continue to grow.

Council Member Daniels shared a story of Council Member Blocker's dedication to those in the community and how he encouraged her to be involved with City committees, and thanked him for encouraging her to join the City Council. She concluded by expressing her appreciation, noting his calming presence and ability to conduct meetings.

Council Member Hines expressed appreciation for their similarities in life, Council Member Blocker's professionalism, and thanked him for his work with the Council.

City Manager Pauli recognized Council Member Blocker's authenticity, empathy, directness, and impact while serving with the City Council. She concluded by sharing that he will be missed.

Mayor Walker recognized Council Member Blocker as a dedicated and committed council member, she expressed appreciation for how he is able to lead and communicate with others, and how he worked with the City Council throughout their time together. She expressed how excited she is for his future and how he will impact people lives and systems in the community. She concluded by thanking Council Member Blocker's wife, who was in attendance.

Council Member Blocker made final comments by thanking the staff who supported him throughout his journey, his colleagues who served on the City Council with him, community members who helped him get to where he is and who have held him accountable for his service on the City Council, and community leaders who have been impactful on the City and throughout his career.

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Mayor Woodards reminded everyone that the December 24, 2023, and January 2, 2024, meetings and study sessions have been cancelled, and the next regularly scheduled meeting and study session will be held on January 9, 2024. She concluded by wishing community members a safe and happy holiday season.

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MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to excuse Council Members Bushnell and Ushka from the meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Ushka

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk