



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 870 4575 5311

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/87045755311 Passcode: 657432

January 25, 2021

4:30 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Mayor Woodards 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.

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Hines

Council Member Hines arrived at 4:35 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

BRIEFING ITEM

1. [21-0094](#) Discussion of the 9th Street and Pacific Avenue incident.

Council Member Hines arrived here, at 4:35 p.m.

At approximately 4:36 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided an overview of the 9th Street and Pacific Avenue incident, noting street racing and demonstration response; expressed her concerns regarding the incident; introduced Michael Ake, Interim Police Chief, Tacoma Police Department; and reviewed street racing laws. Chief Ake provided additional details on street racing, including regional activity, noting groups and individuals involved, demographics, locations, and time of occurrences; reviewed details from Saturday's event; and addressed community questions and concerns. He provided a summary of the demonstration response that followed the incident, including two events that were held on Saturday and Sunday, noting the size of the demonstrations, people involved, scene security, arrests, and

property damage. City Manager Pauli outlined the non-policing preparation and response to the demonstration, noting responses from the Community and Economic Development, Tacoma Fire, Public Works, and Environmental Services departments. Chief Ake addressed additional community questions and concerns in regards to the demonstrations. City Manager Pauli concluded by stating the officer involved was placed on administrative leave.

Discussion ensued regarding efforts underway for a joint response with surrounding municipalities to deter street racing; the number of citations issued for reckless driving and street racing and if anyone has been fined or jailed; reform efforts; an independent investigation; the Saturday and Sunday demonstrations; body worn camera footage; accountability for destructive protesting; identifying bystanders, participants, residents, and protesters; laws against impeding intersections; and transparency and accountability for all parties. Discussion continued regarding the Special Weapons and Tactics team evacuating South Sound 911 employees to safety, the plan for future destructive demonstrations, police response time, the type of information Council Members can receive as elected officials, transformation and transformative policing, deploying officers to preserve life, community trauma, the requirement to provide weekly updates on the investigation, building trust, and the Community's Police Advisory Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Potential Litigation

This item was not addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk