



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

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

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

October 27, 2020

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Briefing Items

2. [20-0755](#) Access Budget Workshop

This Item was discussed before Item No. 1.

At approximately 12:04 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli made opening remarks and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance. Ms. Johnston introduced Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Planning Manager, Media and Communications Office, and Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Finance. Together, they presented the 2021-2022 budget related to access, including an agenda, priority area overview, the outreach summary, the City's role in advancing access and removing barriers, the operating program expense and funding, and general government capital budget overview for funding and expense.

Kurtis Kingsolver, Director, Public Works, presented on access related to public works, maintaining essential services, the Streets Initiative, Initiative 976, parking, Foss Waterway management, and other major projects.

Kate Larsen, Director, Tacoma Public Library, presented on access related to the Tacoma Public Library; and library changes in 2021-2022, noting reductions, impact, and possible alternatives contingent on union negotiations.

Kim Bedier, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events, presented on access related to Tacoma Venues and Events, noting venues, the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality, and Travel Tacoma/Mt. Rainier; Tacoma venues; removing barriers to access to venues; arts and cultural services; Tacoma Creates; and destination sales and promotion.

At approximately 1:15 p.m., Ms. Johnston made opening remarks regarding the City's partnership with Metro Parks Tacoma (MPT) and introduced Pete Mayer, Deputy Executive Director, MPT. Mr. Mayer presented the MPT 2021-2022 Biennial Budget, entitled "Your Parks, Your Voice", including background on MPT; the relationship between the City and MPT; and funding, noting revenue sources and expenses. Marina Becker, Parks and Recreation Director, MPT, presented 2021-2022 City funding, noting maintaining essential services and changes in 2021-2022. Debbie Terwilleger, Planning Director, MPT, presented outreach and engagement, including budget process and engagement, collaboration between the City and MPT, capital improvements and planning, property transfers, and the Foss Waterway Development Authority property transfer critical path. Mr. Mayer presented on shared and re-aligned services.

Discussion ensued regarding library funding, library fine policies and collection, the process for speed bump and traffic circle installation, coordination between agencies to improve access to parks, funds saved by employee furloughs between May and July 2020, virtual access to library services, street maintenance and repaving goals, Initiative 976 funds, funding sources for MPT, funding cuts for MPT versus other departments, the Eastside Microlibrary, funding for traffic calming measures, hours and staffing levels in City libraries, why the Hilltop Microlibrary was never set up, alternative funding sources for libraries, the Tacoma Rail Mountain Division and funding, and Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funding for City venues.

Ms. Johnston gave an overview on the previous virtual Budget Town Hall, including participant statistics and main service area concerns of attendees.

Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department, presented a follow-up on the Fire Department 2021-2022 budget, including key information, retaining engines on overtime, response impacts, and redeployed engine selection considerations.

Discussion ensued regarding impacts, minimum staffing and shifts, and next steps.

1. [20-0754](#) Pierce County Letter Discussion- Environmental Impact Study Relating to Community Plan Updates

At approximately 3:14 p.m., Mayor Woodards introduced Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services. Mr. Huffman presented a letter written to the Pierce County Council regarding the County's Centers and Corridors Community Plan updates, including areas to be opened, the Environmental Impact Statement, and issues the City wishes the Pierce County Council to address before the City gives full support.

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to have the full City Council sign on to the letter to the Pierce County Council.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

3. [20-0756](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 3:20 p.m., City Manager Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, community feedback for police chief recruitment, community feedback to 21CP Solutions, the systems transformation update table, the next steps timeline, and the draft timeline.

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. [20-0764](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 22, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's agenda, a recognition for the call takers of South Sound 911. She further stated there are no expected changes to tonight's agenda, and concluded by reminding the Council there will be a Transportation Benefit District Governing Board meeting after the Council meeting, and the Virtual Forum after that.

Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(ii) to discuss pending and potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 3:52 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened at 4:22 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk