



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Council Chambers
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569
June 07, 2022
12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

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

Briefing Items

1. [22-0643](#) Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code Proposed Amendments

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks.

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

Atkinson presented the proposed 2022 Annual Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code, including an agenda; overview of the amendments, noting the Growth Management Act, Tacoma Comprehensive Plan, Tacoma Municipal Code, and annual versus off-cycle amendments; the planning and development process; the annual amendment process; the 2022 amendment docket; and community engagement. He further reviewed the individual applications, including the proposals and Planning Commission's recommendations, noting the NewCold land use designation change, the South Sound Christian Schools land use designation changes, the work plan for the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) code amendments, and minor amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code; and concluded by outlining next steps and a summary.

Discussion ensued regarding the intent, impacts, and recommendations of the proposed applications; staff recommendations and request for Council Member feedback; the NewCold application, noting community

concerns, environmental considerations, why a land use designation change is needed for the expanded facility, and status of the proposed project; timelines for the STGPD and Economic Green Zone, noting options for interim regulations or a moratorium; details about Garry oaks located on the South Sound Christian Schools property; differences between heavy and light industrial land uses and impacts; and the purpose of zoning and land use changes.

2. [22-0645](#) Vision Zero and Speed Limit Reduction Plan Update

At approximately 12:49 p.m., Josh Diekmann, Assistant Director, Public Works (PW), provided opening remarks on the City's Vision Zero and speed limit reduction plan; and introduced Carrie Wilhelme, Senior Transportation Planner, and Kris Norberg, Professional Engineer, PW. Wilhelme presented an overview; a history of Vision Zero and safe speeds, noting Resolution Nos. 40559 and 40600; the Vision Zero approach, noting comparisons to the traditional approach and safe systems; crash data analysis; the Vision Zero and Safe Systems approach; safe speeds, noting speed limit reduction targets and impacts; and the proposal to change speed limits on residential streets to 20 miles per hour, noting state laws, legislation, and examples from other cities. Norberg outlined the proposal to reduce speed limits in Neighborhood Business Districts (NBDs) to 25 miles per hour, noting staff findings, including NBDs where speed reduction is supported at this time; NBDs where speed reduction is supported pending coordination or completion of other projects; and areas where countermeasures would be needed to support speed reduction. Wilhelme concluded by reviewing work that is underway, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding bicycle safety, comparisons with other cities, evidence that reduced speed limits reduce accidents, enforcement and accountability of excessive speeding and reckless driving, coordination with Safe Routes to School projects, locations of residential and arterial streets, high risk areas, uncontrolled intersections, future work on arterial street design, recent changes to automated enforcement options, speed cameras in school zones and high risk areas, community member concerns, cooperation with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, and current versus proposed speed limits.

3. [22-0644](#) City of Tacoma's Six-Year Financial Forecast for General and Supported Funds

At approximately 1:28 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, provided opening remarks and introduced Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance. Johnston presented the City's

six-year financial forecast for general and supported funds, including an agenda; the budget process; and steps to creating a good budget, noting budget elements and the long-range forecast. Cherullo outlined the economic conditions, including the economic forecast, positive and negative trends, and future risks. Johnston reviewed financial projections, including current financials; General Fund (GF) revenues, noting actual and projected annual increases, and major revenue sources; GF expenses, noting assumptions, actual and projected annual increases, and expenses by cost category; and the GF financial forecasts through 2028. She further reviewed other major funds, noting special revenue trends and enterprise funds; issues that are impacting the City's financial sustainability; what's next, noting ways to address the gap and reprioritize services; revenue options; the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) status report; and the budget process.

Discussion ensued regarding the ongoing Classification and Compensation Study, available ARPA funds and options, the City's reserve policy and fund levels, gas prices, how other cities are handling budget issues, deferred maintenance, the upcoming budget process, Council Member priorities, ideas to generate revenue, the Emergency Medical Services levy lid lift, claims and self-insurance costs, environmental justice and sustainability incentives, consumer confidence measures, supply chain issues and alternative sources, comparisons to other times of economic uncertainty, and utility revenues and expenses.

Other Items of Interest

4. [22-0653](#) Council Consideration Request - Infant Formula

Council Member Walker presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$5,000 of Council Contingency Funds to purchase infant formula to support the Multicultural Child and Family Hope Center's formula drive, noting that she has been working with Council Member Rumbaugh to address the national crisis on a local level. Council Member Rumbaugh further stated that MultiCare Health System has offered to use their supplier to purchase formula in bulk, to maximize the impact of available funds. Council Member Walker concluded by stating the CCR will come forward for action at next week's City Council meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding ongoing supply chain issues, and appreciation for the Council Members' efforts.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [22-0646](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, June 2, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are four ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Saturday, June 11, 2022, as Sound to Narrows Day; proclaiming June 2022 as Gun Violence Awareness Month; proclaiming June 2022 as Ride Transit Month; and recognizing the seniors of Tacoma's Beacon and Lighthouse activity centers. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and that in addition to public comment, the agenda includes a public hearing on the 2022 Annual Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code, and a public hearing on the Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk