



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 838 0605 1736

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/83806051736 Passcode: 621131

February 27, 2021

9:00 AM

Special Meeting - Strategic Planning Work Session

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

All Council Members participated virtually.

WELCOME/OPENING REMARKS

Mayor Woodards reviewed conversations from the first day of the retreat, and introduced Tanisha Jumper, Director, and Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office. Ms. Jumper highlighted upcoming agenda topics and stated that the City Council would be divided into breakout rooms for discussion, and that department directors would have similar discussions separately during the breakout sessions.

BRIEFING ITEMS

4. [21-0204](#) 2021 Forecast

At approximately 9:15 a.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks related to the 2021 Forecast, and introduced Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager. Together, they presented information about COVID-19 responses, including the Washington State response timeline and the City of Tacoma response timeline; highlights related to major City Council initiatives and priority areas, noting health, community safety, affordable housing, access, livable wage jobs, belief and trust, organizational effectiveness, and equity and transformation; and items coming forward to the City Council in 2021.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the hygiene station pilot program, the police staffing study, fire engines, gun violence prevention, the multi-family tax exemption program, wheelchair accessible taxi services, language access, digital equity, status of the Maritime Blue Innovation Accelerator, internal policies, the City's traffic study, and the downtown solid waste collection project.

Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Finance, presented an update on the 2019-2020 General Fund and the 2021 budget calendar, including preliminary General Fund revenues and expenditures, the 2021-2022 economic outlook and risks, and the calendar for reappropriation and budget modifications.

Discussion continued regarding projections and revenues related to sales taxes and business and occupation taxes, and COVID-19 impacts.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 10:35 a.m.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 10:52 a.m.

5. [21-0205](#) 2021 Resource Strategy

At approximately 10:52 a.m., Ms. Jumper provided introductory remarks regarding the 2021 resource strategy discussions and breakout sessions.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 10:55 a.m. to allow Council Members to enter discussion breakout rooms.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 11:42 a.m.

Ms. Jumper and Mr. Colon reviewed breakout session discussions regarding services that should be preserved if the budget tightens, noting equity and transformation, core services, public safety, homelessness, youth education and support, workforce development, and communications; and possible uses for one-time funds, noting rainy day funds, housing, services cut in 2020, transformation, transportation projects, economic development, capital improvements to City buildings, public works projects, providing matching funds for infrastructure projects, housing development, building public confidence, and options to increase sales taxes.

Discussion ensued regarding homelessness, core services, clear communications, clarifying the City Council's role and authority, funding allocation strategies, federal funds, improving communications with and resources for Council Members, community trust, policy development

processes, staffing and resource limitations, balancing priorities and pressures of long-term problems, and challenges of communication and building relationships in remote and virtual settings.

Ms. Jumper concluded by outlining the Council Members' conversations and next steps.

6. [21-0206](#) Anti-Racist Transformation: Guidance and Expectations

At approximately 12:38 p.m., Kenny Coble, Community Engagement Manager, MCO, outlined the breakout session discussions related to anti-racist transformation.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 12:40 p.m. to allow Council Members to enter discussion breakout rooms.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 1:21 p.m.

Mr. Colon reviewed the breakout room discussions, including highlighting ways to measure and track impacts of transformation efforts; the ongoing nature of transformation efforts; prioritizing goals and activities; engaging with impacted communities; priorities related to safety, homelessness and housing stability, jobs, health, livability, and quality of life; providing regular updates; and communication methods.

Mayor Woodards provided closing remarks; thanked the facilitators, directors, staff, and Council Members for the productive conversations; and reminded all that COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day is taking place on March 1, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk