



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

August 31, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 12:07 p.m.

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:11 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0838](#) Tidy-Up Tacoma

At approximately 12:04 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks regarding the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative, including input from Council Members Hunter and Thoms, downtown cleanup efforts, and coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) on areas along highways that are outside the City's control.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here, at 12:07 p.m.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided further remarks regarding the origins of the initiative, community interest, and the cross-functional efforts underway. Kurtis Kingsolver, Director, Public Works, presented details on the Tidy-Up Tacoma 2021 initiative, including an overview; background, noting the State of Washington COVID-19 re-opening on June 30, 2021, the City's business districts, and gateways to Tacoma; and Public Works activities, noting the focus on main arterials in business districts, the six gateway signs, and the Sprague Avenue and Pacific Avenue/State Route 509 interchange.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:11 p.m.

Mr. Kingsolver concluded by outlining coordination with WSDOT. Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), presented updates on graffiti abatement on private property, including contractor activities, a navigator to help property owners enroll in the Rapid Graffiti Removal program, reimbursement for paint purchases, mailers, and targeted areas based on high volume and the Equity Index. Mike Slevin, Director, Environmental Services (ES), reviewed street sweeping activities, noting routine cleanings, coordination with neighborhood cleanups, and the schedule to sweep shoulders along I-5, I-705, State Route 509, and State Route 7. Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development, reviewed promotion with Neighborhood Business District (NBD) stakeholders, Neighborhood Councils (NC), and Neighborhood Associations; recruitment of NBD or NC coordinators using stipends and ES and NCS connections; and support for a call to action through coordinated mailings to abutting business district neighborhoods. Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications Office, reviewed outreach, including information available online at cityoftacoma.org/tidyup, handouts and translations, a public service announcement, social media outreach, weekly updates, and a press release and social media update in the first full week of September. Mr. Kingsolver concluded with review of the program schedule and focus areas.

Discussion ensued regarding coordination with community groups and volunteers, noting Litter 253 and ways for community members to get City support with cleanup efforts; Council Member support and outreach; the City's Safe and Clean Initiative; the need for an ongoing, sustainable, and coordinated effort; homeless encampments; bike lanes and trails; building trust in government; strategies to fund public waste containers and address illegal dumping; and information on waste removal that is available to the public.

2. [21-0839](#) Tacoma Theater's Management Update

At approximately 1:05 p.m., Kim Bedier, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events (TVE), provided opening remarks, introduced Adam Cook, Deputy Director, TVE, and presented an update on management of performing arts venues, including an overview; background, noting City-owned venues, the request for proposals (RFP) issued in April 2021, and the previous RFP in 2005; requirements, noting daily operation, maintenance, strategic work with Resident Arts Organizations (RAOs), active and diverse theater usage, engagement with downtown partners and

merchants, and private sector fundraising and sponsorship; the RFP and selection process; the proposed agreement, including agreement elements, monthly management fee, incentive-based compensation, ten-year term, and general terms under the new contract and the previous contract; a comparison of annual City contributions under the new contract and previous contract; and the staff recommendation to award the Management of Performing Arts Venues contract to ASM Global Theater Management (ASM). She concluded by introducing Bob Papke, Vice President, ASM. Mr. Papke introduced himself and his company.

Discussion ensued regarding comparison of the previous and new contracts, including responsibility for maintenance, repairs, and capital improvements; concerns with hiring a company from outside the City; the Tacoma Arts Live (TAL) organization, noting appreciation for its long history with the City, TAL's decision not to participate in the RFP, and ongoing relationship as one of the City's RAOs; ASM's background and experience with similar markets, historic theaters, and community partnerships; why an RFP was issued; the change to the management model; review by the Government Performance and Finance Committee; ticket fees; booking policies; how new groups can get on the schedule or become RAOs; community outreach about the change; ASM's plan for an in-person presence in Tacoma; the RFP advertisement and review process; support for community groups and partnerships; staff recruitment and diversity; the role of a local public relations contractor, Mary Langholz, to help with the transition; arts education and awareness programs; the Tacoma Creates program; and opportunities for future capital investments.

3. [21-0840](#) Homeless Program Update

At approximately 2:16 p.m., Linda Stewart, Director, NCS, presented an update on homeless services, including an appreciation for staff; overview; inclement weather response, noting the Lighthouse Activity Center cooling center, water distribution sites, and planning for 2022; the City's 5-Year Homelessness Strategy; program staffing changes and recruitment; acquisition of the Comfort Inn hotel property; a temporary shelter at Shiloh Baptist Church; the South 69th Street and South Proctor Street temporary emergency mitigation site; various temporary mitigation and stabilization site models and services; Public Utility Board approval of a temporary site at South 82nd Street and Pacific Avenue; the young adult shelter transition at Beacon Center; and a summary of activities.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for NCS staff; Tacoma's leadership in strategies for addressing homelessness; the Beacon Center transition and impacts; ways for community members to help; addressing encampments on

Yakima Avenue; regulations, case law, and Centers for Disease Control guidance related to dispersal and removal of encampments; the need for more authorized, low-barrier, encampment sites with different types of services; building trust with community partners and individuals living in encampments; asking individuals what factors keep them from using available shelters or services; difficulty finding new shelter and encampment locations; how staff decide when there is a heightened safety concern and an encampment should be removed, noting calls, assessments, and review by the City Manager; laws, regulations, and related case law; and short-term interventions versus long-term prevention.

4. [21-0856](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 3:21 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented an update on systems transformation, including new items, noting the Community's Police Advisory Committee presentation to the Community Vitality and Safety Committee on use of force and oversight, Tacoma Police Department (TPD) Chief recruitment, a new TPD Deputy Chief job classification, training related to legislative updates, and an upcoming RFP for a communication strategy assessment and recommendations; and the new feature available on the transformation website at cityoftacoma.org/transform.

Other Items of Interest

5. [21-0841](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Mike Ake, Interim Police Chief, TPD, presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including completion of internal interviews; receipt of records from the Washington State Attorney General's Office; and next steps, noting the separate process for three of the five officers, and an updated timeline. He also reported that the investigation of an officer striking pedestrians on Pacific Avenue in January 2021 is now complete.

Discussion ensued regarding the process and timeline for the investigation of the January 2021 incident, noting the process, review, determination by prosecuting attorneys, and when information will be available to the public.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [21-0842](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, August 26, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's agenda, proclaiming September 10-19, 2021, as Welcoming Week; a motion may be considered to remove Ordinance No. 28756 regarding unlawful use of public property from the agenda, and to set it over to a date to be determined; a public hearing on the Manitou Annexation will be held at tonight's meeting; and next week's study session and regular business meeting are cancelled due to the Labor Day holiday.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

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

Ayes: 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

The Closed Session was held after adjournment of the study session.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk