



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 885 9166 4133

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/88591664133 Passcode: 325899

December 28, 2020

9:00 AM

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Beale and Blocker

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived at 9:06 a.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

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.

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MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an application for public employment, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member McCarthy.

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

Ayes: 7 - Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Beale and Blocker

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 9:06 a.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived here, at 9:06 a.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the City Council special meeting reconvened, at 9:25 a.m.

BRIEFING ITEM

- 1. [21-0009](#) To discuss the appointment of a Chief of the Tacoma Police Department

At approximately 9:26 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided an update on the Chief of the Tacoma Police Department (TPD) recruitment process, including appreciation for staff, community members, and City Council Members who participated in the process; the decision to appoint Mike Ake, Assistant Chief, as Interim Chief for the TPD; reasons for the decision, noting ongoing transformation efforts, Assistant Chief Ake’s qualifications, recruitment limitations related to the COVID-19 pandemic, community concerns, and immediate and long-term transformation goals.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the decision, community involvement and feedback, the recruitment process, internal versus external candidates, the City Council’s role in appointing an Interim Police Chief, the continued focus on transformation, acknowledging outgoing Police Chief Don Ramsdell, interactions with the Community's Police Advisory Committee, work by 21CP Solutions consultants, recognition of TPD staff, and next steps.

City Manager Pauli concluded by introducing Assistant Chief Ake, noting his demonstrated investment in transformation and leadership qualities. Assistant Chief Ake made remarks thanking the City Council for their support and looking forward to the new role as Interim Police Chief.

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MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to excuse Council Member Beale from the special meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Beale

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "V. Woodards", written over a horizontal line.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Doris Sorum", written over a horizontal line.

Doris Sorum, City Clerk