



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

November 03, 2020

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Beale, Hines, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, Hunter and Thoms

Deputy Mayor Blocker and Council Member Hunter arrived at 12:02 p.m.

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:33 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [20-0788](#) Livable Wage Jobs

At approximately 12:02 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli made opening remarks and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, and Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office (MCO). Together, they presented the 2021-2022 budget update with regards to livable wage jobs, including an agenda and overview of the priority area to increase the number of Tacoma households that have livable wage jobs within proximity to the City.

Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Finance presented the outreach summary.

Ms. Johnston presented the City's role in advancing livable wage jobs, program overview, and funding overview.

Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development, presented major actions in 2021-2022; direct business support, noting equity in contracting, training and technical assistance, business financial assistance, the COVID Stabilization Loan fund, the COVID Resiliency Grants, and

examples of business supported; focused business retention and expansion (BRE), noting the reduction of one full-time Business Development Manager, strengthening partnerships on core and essential BRE efforts, focusing BRE efforts with Black, Indigenous, people of color, and women-owned businesses in key sectors, 2019-2020 accomplishments, and growth and expansion potential by sector; regional and local partnerships; business recruitment, noting recruitment focused on specific sectors, developing customized recruitment proposals, working with private property owners and brokers, and the Maritime Blue Incubator; and workforce development, noting training programs, external contracts, and historical partners and performance.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:33 p.m.

Mr. Robinson continued with a review of the local business climate.

Cheryl Bidleman, Assistant Director, Human Resources, presented on workforce development with the City as the employer.

Discussion ensued regarding barriers to livable wage jobs, creating programs to help adults without a high school diploma, tracking race demographics of business owners, defining “livable wage”, resources for business assistance, bringing new businesses to Tacoma, and the livable wage in Tacoma versus other areas in the region.

2. [20-0789](#) Belief and Trust

At approximately 1:08 p.m., City Manager Pauli made opening remarks on the 2021-2022 budget regarding belief and trust. Mr. Colon presented the priority area overview related to increasing the percentage of residents who believe they are able to have a positive impact on the community and express trust in the public institutions in Tacoma.

Mr. Bennion presented the outreach summary, noting the community survey and summer outreach.

Ms. Johnston presented the City role in belief and trust; the Citywide effort; transformation efforts, noting community systems-wide transformation, policing transformation, and organizational transformation; and program expense and funding for 2021-2022.

Tanisha Jumper, Director, MCO, presented on the MCO budget, including media and communications; community engagement; strategic alignment, noting Tacoma 2025 and beyond; and providing timely and reliable

information and services.

Nick Bayard, Assistant Chief Equity Officer, Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR), presented on the City's anti-racist transformation efforts.

Mike Ake, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Police Department, presented on anti-racist transformation efforts related to police transformation and community engagement.

Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), presented on efforts to increase and diversify community voice, noting the Community Mobilization funding and Neighborhood Councils.

La'Toya Mason, Customer Support Service Center Manager, City Manager's Office, presented on actively responding to resident concerns, noting changes due to COVID-19, TacomaFIRST 311 service, and community engagement in 2021-2022.

Discussion ensued regarding the multilingual newsletter; increasing community outreach; virtual Neighborhood Council meetings; the effectiveness of Neighborhood Councils; the makeup of OEHR, NCS, and MCO, and comparing that to the budget for each office; salaries for proposed full-time positions and funding sources; funding for the Neighborhood Councils; social media and community communication; and public disclosure rules for organizations and groups within the City.

3. [20-0790](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 2:38 p.m., City Manager Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, community feedback to 21CP Solutions, the systems transformation update table, next steps timeline, and draft transformation timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding opportunities for community and Council engagement with the police chief search and the virtual town hall meeting.

Other Items of Interest

Deputy Mayor Blocker stated he is working on a resolution addressing further racial inequities in police interactions with Black community members by de-prioritizing certain traffic violations.

Discussion ensued regarding racial equity in police stops, non-motorized stops, similar resolutions other cities have passed and results, restricting the

police, possible conflicts with programs such as Vision Zero, utilizing solutions without inherent biases such as speed cameras, the resolution's intent, and data from policing in Tacoma.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [20-0791](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 29, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's agenda, and no expected changes.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to 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 Thoms.

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

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

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

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



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Doris Sorum, City Clerk