



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Telephonic

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April 10, 2020

2:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

All Council Members participated virtually.

BRIEFING ITEMS

1. [20-0289](#) Approval of a letter to support local businesses during the COVID-19 emergency by allowing the sale of mixed drinks via delivery and to-go orders.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to approve the submission of the letter on behalf of the City Council to the Washington State Legislative Delegation.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

Mayor Woodards made a friendly amendment to include submission of the letter to Governor Inslee and the Liquor Control Board. The friendly amendment was accepted by Council Member Thoms.

Council Member Thoms presented the intent behind the letter.

Discussion ensued regarding similar actions in other states, how long it would be allowed, and how the alcohol would be packaged and sold.

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

2. [20-0290](#) Update on the status and impact of the COVID-19 virus and the City's response including:
- Update from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department;
 - Update on the City of Tacoma's financial status; and
 - Update from the City Manager.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli made opening remarks and introduced Nigel Turner, Division Director for Communicable Disease Control, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD). Mr. Turner presented the update from the TPCHD, including the strategy for the health threat in the United States, public health response overview, the evolving situation, statewide picture, and the average deaths per day. Michelle Fredrickson, Epidemiologist, TPCHD, outlined the daily case count, new cases, and overall trend in Pierce County; growth rates over time; the trend since the start of the outbreak in King County versus Pierce County; inpatient hospitalization data regarding visits with COVID-like symptoms and visits with a diagnosis of COVID-19 in Pierce County facilities; and a geographical model on COVID-19 data. Mr. Turner reviewed the phrase "flattening the curve"; non-pharmaceutical interventions, noting personal actions, community social distancing, and environmental measures; "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" orders, noting the order to stay home except for essential supplies and services, exceptions for essential jobs, and exceptions for exercise; agency coordination; testing guidance; priority patients for COVID-19 testing; temporary care centers; and cloth masks. Cindy Miron, Program Manager, TPCHD, presented healthcare preparedness, noting the Northwest Healthcare Response Network and the TPCHD. Mr. Turner concluded by reviewing actions the public can take.

Discussion ensued regarding long-term planning and the current timeline for testing.

City Manager Pauli introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, who presented an update on the City's financial status, including planned actions for all funds; preliminary estimates, noting a 40 million dollar savings target; reserves, noting cyclical reserves, one-time emergency needs, and current risks; limited use of reserves; and additional actions.

Discussion ensued regarding service and personnel funds and next steps.

City Manager Pauli gave an update on the Tacoma Recovery and Transfer Center.

Council Member McCarthy introduced a letter to send to Governor Inslee to

consider construction work as essential work.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk