



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

July 07, 2015

10:00 AM

SPECIAL MEETING

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the special study session to order at 10:05 a.m.

Present: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Woodards

Briefing Items

1. [15-0724](#) Tacoma Minimum Wage Discussion

Mayor Strickland stated this meeting is to give Council Members a chance to talk about proposal A and proposal B relative to the minimum wage and to hear about any amendments or ideas that others may have.

Council Member Mello discussed differences between big business and small business. Council Member Ibsen discussed the differences between entry level positions versus minimum wage jobs. Council Member Thoms discussed using education to help people get higher paying jobs. Council Member Campbell stated Tacoma has been a leader when it comes to some very important issues. He then discussed the value of the people working in small and larger businesses. Deputy Mayor Boe discussed a majority of the workers do not live within the City of Tacoma but work in the City, and stated the impact of raising the minimum wage is unknown. Council Member Lonergan discussed concern with raising the minimum wage at a city level in regards to what the state wage offers. Council Member Walker discussed impacts to the people in the community. She inquired if the City Manager could find out from the Tacoma Housing Authority about what impact people who are living in subsidized housing will have when income levels go up.

Council Member Thoms stated a phased implementation is the way to go. Council Member Campbell discussed keeping the implementation consistent so the City is not creating extra expenses. Council Member Mello discussed concerns towards small businesses and the people who are working in the minimum wage jobs. Mayor Strickland discussed putting together a proposal that the voters are going to approve. Council Member Lonergan discussed people who are above the minimum wage and then will become minimum wage employees, adjustments will need to be made. Council Member Campbell inquired about doing a study to determine the impact. Deputy Mayor Boe discussed implementing a shorter time frame. Mayor Strickland concluded by stating the council will bring the issue to the City Council meeting next week.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the special study session was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk