



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 3423 3126

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/84834233126 Passcode: 349099

January 16, 2024

5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

Council Member Ushka participated virtually.

FLAG SALUTE

Deputy Mayor Hines 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.

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Hines.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

In honor of Jacob A. Carter.

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. [24-0059](#) Minutes of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, May 10, 2023.
2. [24-0056](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board study session, December 13, 2023.
3. [24-0057](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board meeting, December 13, 2023.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Mayor Woodards stated that an item will be added to the agenda.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to suspend Rule 4A of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma to amend the agenda to consider a letter of support for Senate Bill 6009, as Item 3A, under the Consent Agenda.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

CONSENT AGENDA

3A. [24-0078](#) A Letter of Support for Senate Bill 6009.

PAYMENTS

4. [24-0054](#) Date Range - 12/18/2023 to 12/31/2023
Payroll in the amount of \$21,388,067.58; Payments in the amount of \$34,111,538.48; for a total of \$55,499,606.06.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, as amended, including Item 3A, regarding a letter of support for Senate Bill 6009.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, as amended. The Consent Agenda, as amended, was declared adopted.

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 5. [24-0055](#) Recognizing Yvonne McCarty.

Mayor Woodards recognized Yvonne McCarty, Chair, Northeast Neighborhood Council, and presented a recognition.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment began at 5:21 p.m.

The City Clerk’s Office received no written comments for public comment.

Speaking before the City Council:

- 1. Michele Reich, regarding Item 3A, a letter of support for Senate Bill 6009.
- 2. April Smith, regarding Item 3A.
- 3. Kathy Lawhon, regarding Item 3A.
- 4. Jaleesa Trapp, regarding Resolution No. 41341.
- 5. Jonathan Pottle, regarding Item 3A and Resolution No. 41341.
- 6. Sally Perkins, regarding Item 3A, Resolution No. 41341, and Ordinance No. 28953.
- 7. APTTP, regarding unknown.

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The City Council meeting recessed at 5:32 p.m., and reconvened at 5:37 p.m.

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- 8. Monet Carter-Mixon, regarding Resolution No. 41341.

Public comment ended at 5:38 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPOINTMENTS

- 6. [RES41338](#) A resolution appointing Elizabeth Bowman to the Library Board of Trustees. [Mayor Woodards]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to adopt Resolution No. 41338.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

7. [RES41339](#) A resolution appointing individuals to the Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee. [Nicole Emery, City Clerk; Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to adopt Resolution No. 41339.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

RESOLUTIONS

8. [RES41340](#) A resolution naming the new trail formerly referred to as the Tacoma to Puyallup Regional Trail to spuyaləpabš Trail. [Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Transportation Division Manager; Ramiro A. Chavez, P.E. PgMP, Director, Public Works]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to adopt Resolution No. 41340.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

9. [RES41341](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Tacoma Police Union, Local 6, I.U.P.A., retroactive to January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2026.
[Dylan Carlson, Labor Relations Division Manager;
Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to adopt Resolution No. 41341.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Scott and Walker

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

10. [ORD28932](#) A supplemental ordinance of the City of Tacoma, Washington, relating to the electric system; providing for the issuance and sale of one or more series of electric system revenue and refunding bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$225,000,000 to provide funds to finance and refinance capital improvements to the electric system, to redeem certain obligations of the electric system, and to pay costs of issuance for the bonds; fixing or setting parameters with respect to certain terms and covenants of the bonds, and appointing the City's designated representatives to approve the final terms of the sale of the bonds; repealing City Ordinance No. 28920 in its entirety; and approving certain other matters in connection therewith.
[Michelle Brown, Financial Planning Supervisor; Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent].

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28932. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Scott and Walker

11. [ORD28933](#) An ordinance amending Subtitle 6A of the Municipal Code, relating to the Tax Code, by amending Chapter 6A.50, entitled “Electricity Business and Solid Waste Collection”, by renaming the Chapter to “Electricity Business and Solid Waste Collection Business”, and further amending this Chapter and Chapter 6A.100, entitled “Utilities Gross Earnings Tax - Public Utilities”, to simplify the deduction for collection of commercial recyclable materials and align language regarding taxable income.
[Danielle Larson, Tax and License Division Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28933. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

12. [ORD28934](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28911, relating to Electric Energy - Regulations and Rates; which amended Chapter 12.06 of the Municipal Code, to add a new Section 12.06.266, entitled "Very large load service of 10 aMW or more - Schedule VLL", and by amending various sections to align with the new Schedule VLL, effective January 1, 2024.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28934. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

13. [ORD28935](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28912, relating to Water - Regulations and Rates; which amended Chapter 12.10 of the Municipal Code, by amending Section 12.10.301, entitled “Fire hydrant services fee”, and Section 12.10.400, entitled “Rates - Inside and outside City limits”, effective January 1, 2024.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28935. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

14. [ORD28936](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28913, relating to general property tax; which authorized an increase in the Ad Valorem general property tax revenue collection in terms of both dollars and percentage for the general property tax levy in 2024.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28936. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

15. [ORD28937](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28914, relating to tax levies; which fixed the amount of the Ad Valorem tax levies necessary to identify the amount of the estimated revenues from property tax levies to match estimated expenditures for debt service and other funding requirements.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28937. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

16. [ORD28938](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28915, relating to Emergency Medical Services; which authorized an increase for the Emergency Medical Services property tax levy in terms of both dollars and percentage.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28938. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

17. [ORD28939](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28916, relating to Emergency Medical Services; which fixed the amount of the Emergency Medical Services levy necessary to identify the amount of the estimated revenues from the property tax levy to match estimated expenditures for debt service and other funding requirements.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28939. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

18. [ORD28940](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28917, relating to the Biennial Operating Budget; which amended the 2023-2024 Biennial Operating Budget to appropriate funds for contractual obligations, transfers, and other budget adjustments; authorized interfund transfers and contributions; and accepted, deposited, and appropriated miscellaneous donations, contributions, and/or fees.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28940. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

19. [ORD28941](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28918, relating to the Capital Budget; which modified the 2023-2024 Capital Budget to recognize changes in transfers, additional revenues, and budget adjustments.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28941. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

20. [ORD28942](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28919, relating to property tax levies; which amended Chapter 3.11 of the Municipal Code, relating to Emergency Medical Transportation, by amending Section 3.11.060, entitled “Patient transportation service rates”, to restore the Emergency Medical Services levy and allow the levy to pay for medical transport charges incurred by qualified City residents, as passed by voters in Proposition 1 in the August 1, 2023, Primary Election. [Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28942. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

21. [ORD28943](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28922, relating to Animal Control and Public Safety; which amended Titles 17 and 8 of the Municipal Code, by amending Section 17.02.140, entitled “Public disturbance noise and public nuisance noise made by an animal”, and Section 8.12.060, entitled “Public disturbance noises”, to revise requirements for enforcement of an unlawful action and to remove the criminal misdemeanor charge for public disturbance and public nuisance noise made by an animal. [Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28943. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

22. [ORD28944](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28923, relating to Animal Control; which amended Title 17 of the Municipal Code, by adding a new Section 17.02.155, entitled “Cat Declawing”, to establish a ban on performing a procedure that results in the partial or complete declawing of a cat except when conducted by a licensed veterinarian for a therapeutic purpose, effective March 31, 2024. [Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28944. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

23. [ORD28945](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28924; which authorized the annexation of the Manitou Potential Annexation Area, located near Lakewood Drive West and 66th Street West, to the City of Tacoma, effective April 1, 2024, as set forth in the Interlocal Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding with Pierce County executed December 15, 2021.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28945. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

24. [ORD28946](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Substitute Ordinance No. 28925, relating to pay and compensation; which amended Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, to implement rates of pay and compensation for certain represented and nonrepresented employees; and changes in classifications to reflect the organizational structure.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28946. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

25. [ORD28947](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28926, relating to urban forestry; which amended Title 9 of the Municipal Code, relating to Public Ways, by repealing Chapters 9.18, 9.19, and 9.20 in their entirety and replacing Chapter 9.20 with a new chapter entitled "Urban Forestry", to establish permit requirements and related regulations for pruning, removal, and planting of street trees, establish policies and procedures for discretionary review of requests to prune trees on public property, establish a heritage tree program, and provide for enforcement and penalties for violations; amended Title 1 of the Municipal Code, relating to Administration and Personnel, by amending Chapter 1.23 of the Municipal Code, entitled "Hearing Examiner", to provide for administrative appeals; and established effective dates.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28947. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

26. [ORD28948](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification, reconfirmation, and effective date of Ordinance No. 28921; which amended the current non-exclusive Right of Use Agreement and Franchise with Pierce Transit, extending the renewal term an additional five-years, and amending the current expiration from January 1, 2024, to January 1, 2029, for transit-related infrastructure within City rights-of-way.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28948. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

27. [ORD28949](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28927, relating to the Tax and License Code; which amended Ordinance No. 28910 to include an additional exhibit amending Municipal Code Chapters 6B.10 and 6B.20, effective November 13, 2023.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28949. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

28. [ORD28950](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28928, relating to background checks; which amended Subtitle 6B of the Municipal Code, relating to the License Code, by amending Section 6B.10.030, entitled “License definitions”, and Section 6B.10.190, entitled “Investigations and background checks”, to meet Federal Bureau of Investigation requirements to allow the City to conduct nationwide background checks for certain license applicants.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28950. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

- 29. [ORD28951](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28929, relating to the tax and license code; which amended Subtitle 6A of the Municipal Code, relating to the Tax Code, by amending Section 6A.30.065, entitled “Job credits”, to narrow the definition of a green job and increase the value of the green job tax credit from \$250 to \$1,000 per year; and amended various sections throughout Chapter 6A.30, to update language, address areas of inconsistency, and comply with state law.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28951. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards
Absent: 1 - Walker

- 30. [ORD28952](#) An ordinance providing for the ratification and reconfirmation of Ordinance No. 28930; which amended Chapter 6A.30 of the Municipal Code, relating to Business and Occupation Tax, by adding a new Section 6A.30.067, entitled “Job Credit - Work Opportunity”, to provide a new \$1,000 job tax credit for employers adding a new position and filling the position with an individual with a disability, as identified through the vocational referral in the federal Work Opportunity Tax Credit.
[Chris Bacha, City Attorney]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28952. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards
Absent: 1 - Walker

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

- 31. [ORD28953](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for employees represented by the Tacoma Police Union, Local 6, I.U.P.A.
[Kari Louie, Assistant Director; Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28953 was set over for final reading next week.

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The City Council meeting recessed at 6:20 p.m., and reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated the January 17, 2024, public meeting regarding the Business Improvement Area has been postponed due to inclement weather.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Community Vitality and Safety Committee

Council Member Ushka, Chair of the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, reported at the December 14, 2023, meeting the Committee received a request for an ordinance amending Chapter 8.17 of the Tacoma Municipal Code related to false reports of crime and an informational briefing Rental Housing Code regarding research topics; at the January 11, 2024, meeting, the Committee held elections for the Chair and Vice Chair positions, filled by Council Members Ushka and Rumbaugh, and received an informational briefing on the City's anti-displacement strategy. She concluded by stating the next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on January 25, 2024, at 4:30 p.m., and will include the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' annual report and work plan, Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority (TCRA) interviews, and the TCRA report.

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Mayor Woodards and Council Members Scott, Ushka, Diaz, and Daniels made comments regarding the death of Manuel Ellis, including its impact on his family and the community; police reform and policy changes; public demands for transparency, oversight, and accountability; role of the Community's Police Advisory Committee; systemic failures; available resources; personal experiences and trauma; disparate impacts on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; public service and representation; work that remains to be done; and the Council's commitment to make necessary and tangible changes going forward.

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MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to excuse Council Member Walker from the meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk