



Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/COW>

Tacoma Municipal Building, 9th Floor Visibility Center, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, Washington 98402

August 6, 2013

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Council Members Present: 5 – Campbell, Boe, Ibsen, Mello, and Mayor Strickland.

Council Members Absent: 4 – Lonergan, Walker, and Woodards (all arrived at 3:06 p.m) and Thoms (arrived at 3:25 p.m.)

I-502 – Recreational Cannabis Legislation Discussion

City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli stated this is the fourth discussion of the impacts and options relating to Initiative 502 (I-502) which legalizes marijuana use and possession, in limited quantity, for persons over 21 under Washington State law.

Council Members Lonergan, Walker, and Woodards arrived here, at 3:06 p.m.

Ms. Pauli reviewed the City's recommended options for licensing and enforcement. She stated no action is being recommended for licensing until the final rules are out from the Washington State Liquor Control Board. Brian Boudet, Planning and Development Services, reviewed recommended options for land use regulations, including adding Urban Horticulture as a new use category, adopting marijuana specific uses and provide zoning, and consider additional sensitive use buffers. He then reviewed marijuana production, processing, retail, and sensitive use buffering. He stated the Planning Commission will review the interim regulations initiated by Council on August 7, 2013, and a public hearing before the City Council will be scheduled for August 27, 2013. Discussion ensued regarding items made from hemp, signage, outdoor storage, if the number of stores can be capped, how the state regulations affect tribal regulations, and enforcement.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 3:25 p.m.

TPU Ten-Year Management Plan

Bill Gaines, Director of Utilities, stated Section 4.15 of the City Charter relating to Utilities provides for a periodic review of the management and operation of Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) at intervals not exceeding ten years. He discussed the recommended review approach and process governance. He stated a joint committee will be formed to oversee the 2013 management review process and the committee will be composed of three Council members and two Utility Board members, with Mayor Strickland serving as Chair, Council Member Lonergan as a member, and with a third Council Member to be named by the Committee. He stated Utility Board Chair Dave Nelson and Secretary Bryan Flint will serve as members of the Committee as well. He then reviewed the role of the review committee, and staffing for the committee.

Mr. Gaines provided further information on prior reviews conducted in 1980, 1990, 1996, and 2003. Mayor Strickland requested a list of current TPU audits. She also requested the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee choose the third Council Member to serve on the TPU Management Committee. Discussion ensued regarding who is responsible for implementing recommendations from the review. Council Member Walker stated she would like shut off notice policies for low-income utility customers included in the perimeters of the review. Council Member Woodards requested follow up on the 2003 report to include the report's recommendations and how TPU responded. Council Member Mello requested the City Manager choose a staff person from General Government to co-manage the review process.

Council Emerging Issues and Questions

None.

Council Committee Updates

Council Member Mello discussed the air quality status and the good work from the Port of Tacoma. He stated the other item for the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is ozone levels.

Council Member Woodards stated the Foundation for Tacoma Schools is now named the Foundation for Tacoma Students.

Mayor Strickland stated the Pierce Transit Board is delaying major service cuts until February 2013.

Council Consideration Requests

Council Member Mello stated he is asking for support in identifying \$20,000 to support the co-location of the Oasis Youth Center and the Rainbow Center to a new space on Pacific Avenue. He stated the co-location will allow the agencies to expand their programming and drop-in hours, in anticipation of hosting 1,000 visits to the Center each month. Discussion ensued regarding the total amount needed for Phase 1 of the co-location and how the \$20,000 contribution will help, the City's benefit, and where the funding may come from.

Other Items of Interest

City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli provided Council Members with the official ballot title and explanatory statement for Proposition No. 1 regarding a 2% utility company earnings tax for Tacoma street improvements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

MARILYN STRICKLAND, MAYOR

DORIS SORUM, CITY CLERK