



# 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](https://www.zoom.us/j/84834233126) Passcode: 349099

**September 12, 2023**

**5:00 PM**

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## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Ushka participated virtually.

## FLAG SALUTE

Council Member Bushnell 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 Council Member Bushnell.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

In remembrance of the lives lost and the first responders of the September 11, 2001, tragedy.

## ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. [23-0829](#) Minutes of the Human Services Commission, May 10, 2023.
2. [23-0830](#) Minutes of the Human Services Commission, June 14, 2023.

## AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were no modifications to the agenda.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

3.     [RES41266](#)     A resolution awarding a contract to Axum General Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$511,166.17, plus applicable taxes, plus a 15 percent contingency, for a cumulative total of \$587,841.09, budgeted from various departmental funds, for pedestrian and safety improvements located at Birney Elementary School and near the School of Industrial Design, Engineering, and Art - Specification No. PW22-0395F.  
[Veronica Munyao, Engineering Project Manager; Josh Diekmann, P.E. PTOE, Interim Director, Public Works]
  
4.     [RES41267](#)     A resolution awarding a contract to the Washington State Department of Ecology, in the amount of \$514,632, plus applicable taxes, budgeted from the Surface Water Fund, for two Washington Conservation Corps crews for environmental restoration on City-owned properties, from October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024 - Direct Negotiation.  
[Desiree Radice, Principal Natural Resources Analyst; Michael P. Slevin, III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services]

### PAYMENTS

5.     [23-0871](#)     Date Range - 08/14/2023 to 08/27/2023  
Payroll in the amount of \$20,485,238.94; Payments in the amount of \$28,087,557.86; for a total of \$48,572,796.80.

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 41266 and 41267.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 41266 and 41267. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.**

**Ayes:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 6. [23-0881](#) Proclaiming Saturday, September 16, 2023, as Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Day.

Mayor Woodards proclaimed September 16, 2023, as Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Day and presented the proclamation to Julie Timm, CEO, and Madeleine Greathouse, Project Director, Sound Transit.

- 7. [23-0870](#) Proclaiming September 15-October 15, 2023, as Hispanic Heritage Month.

Mayor Woodards proclaimed September 15-October 15, 2023, as Hispanic Heritage Month and presented the proclamation to Maria Teresa Gamez, Language Access Coordinator, Media and Communications Office and member of the City's Hispanic and Latine Affinity Group; and Anaid Yerena, Associate Professor of Urban Studies, and Amanda Figueroa, Senior Director for Student Transitions and Success, University of Washington Tacoma.

- 8. [23-0869](#) Recognizing Minh-Anh Hodge.

Mayor Woodards recognized Minh-Anh Hodge, Director, Tacoma Public Schools, and presented the recognition to Hodge.

- 9. [23-0880](#) Compassionate Tacoma Recognition: Lois Bernstein.

Mayor Woodards recognized Lois Bernstein, retired Chief Community Executive, MultiCare Health System, and presented the Compassionate Tacoma recognition to Bernstein.

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The City Council meeting recessed at 5:36 p.m.

The City Council meeting reconvened at 5:42 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment began at 5:43 p.m.

The City Clerk’s Office received no written comment for Public Comment.

Speaking before the City Council:

- 1. Michele Reich, speaking on the Hispanic Heritage Month proclamation.
- 2. Eric Musica, speaking on the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Day proclamation.

3. Kathy Lawhon, speaking on the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension Day proclamation.

Public Comment ended at 5:49 p.m.

## REGULAR AGENDA

10. [23-0884](#) A motion may be considered to confirm the appointment of Ramiro Chavez as Public Works Director, effective October 9, 2023.

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to confirm the appointment of Ramiro Chavez as Public Works Director, effective October 9, 2023.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

## APPOINTMENTS

11. [RES41268](#) A resolution appointing and reappointing individuals to the Equity in Contracting Advisory Committee.  
[Nicole Emery, City Clerk; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41268.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

## RESOLUTIONS

12. [RES41269](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of a Multi-Family Housing 12-Year Limited Property Tax Exemption Agreement with Meacham Development, LLC, for the development of six multi-family market and regulated rate rental housing units, located at 2420 South “I” Street, in the Downtown Regional Growth Center. [Debbie Bingham, Project Manager; Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41269.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Forum began at 5:56 p.m.

The City Clerk’s Office received four written comments for Community Forum regarding the Home in Tacoma Project Phase 2, crime, code compliance, and animal rights.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Reverend Deacon Jeffrey Boyce, regarding the ten-block buffer zone around shelters and equal access to shelters.
2. Eric Musica, regarding public transit and transportation.
3. Michele Reich, regarding lessons from the September 11, 2001, tragedy.
4. Kevin Carrere, regarding sidewalks, crosswalks, and code compliance in the Hilltop neighborhood.
5. Kit Burns, regarding the City's tree canopy and funding.
6. Mary Smith, regarding the Community Forum format, parking, crime, and street lights.
7. April Smith, regarding appreciation for Environmental Services staff, road work in Larchmont, and the City Charter review process.

- 8. Kathy Lawhon, regarding a tenant bill of rights, the Alberta J. Canada Apartments, and the Tacoma Housing Authority.

Community Forum ended at 6:13 p.m.

**REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

There was no report.

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Mayor Woodards announced that she had the opportunity to attend a network convening in Tacoma called New Growth Innovation Network (NGIN), noting their commitment to inclusive economic growth, they are hosting delegations of community and economic development leaders from five cities, and they chose to visit Tacoma to study the City's inclusive models and to design and activate programs for implementation back home. She concluded by presenting City Manager Elizabeth Pauli with an award from the NGIN in appreciation of the City's commitment to inclusive economic growth.


**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 August 24, 2023, meeting, the Committee conducted interviews for the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities (TACOD) and received a presentation on the Tacoma-Pierce County Humane Society and animal control managed intake. She concluded by stating the next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on September 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m., and would include additional interviews for the TACOD and a presentation on the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder sales tax.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

  
Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

  
Nicole Emery, City Clerk