



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 835 4192 7915

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/83541927915 Passcode: 219278

October 21, 2020

6:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Mayor Woodards 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.

ROLL CALL

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

All Council Members participated virtually.

BRIEFING ITEMS

1. [20-0728](#) Introductions and presentation of the 2021-2022 Biennial Budget

At approximately 6:06 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, provided opening remarks and outlined the special meeting format, including the breakout sessions. City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided an overview of the proposed 2021-2022 Biennial Budget, including the budget development process; City Council priorities; the community engagement process; community feedback themes; budget breakdown; General Fund revenues and expenses; reductions and mitigations to close the \$40 million gap in the proposed budget; transformation efforts; maintaining essential services; and responses and recovery efforts, noting COVID-19, housing, transportation access and safety projects, health, environmental health, and equity in contracting.

2. [20-0729](#) Recess for breakout rooms for questions and answers period and reconvening the special City Council meeting

At approximately 6:34 p.m., Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Finance, outlined the process for attendees to participate in the virtual breakout sessions.

MOTION: Mayor Woodards moved to recess the special meeting for approximately 40 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Blocker.

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

The City Council special meeting recessed at 6:40 p.m.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

3. [20-0730](#) Staff report out of the breakout sessions and discussion

At approximately 7:25 p.m., Mr. Bennion provided a staff report from the first breakout group, including participant poll results, noting top concerns of homelessness, social services, library services, and affordable housing; and questions and answers regarding police funding, library services and budget, affordable housing and low income housing, reduction of fire engines, and clarifications about funding levels. He concluded by noting that responses to all questions, including those not addressed during the session, would be posted online at cityoftacoma.org/budgetdevelopment.

Tammy Liddle Lobban, Senior Management and Budget Analyst, Finance, provided a summary from the District 4 and District 5 breakout group, including poll results, noting top concerns of homeless services, libraries, and affordable housing; and questions and answers regarding essential services, police funding, wage increases, the relationship between justice and public safety, housing strategies, police services, and behavioral health.

Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office, provided a summary from the District 1 and District 2 breakout group, including poll results, noting top concerns of library services, homelessness services, social services, and affordable housing; and questions and answers regarding library services, library revenue generation, police services, timing of the budget process, and concerns about the special meeting format and lack of interaction.

4. [20-0731](#) Closing remarks from the Mayor and City Council

Mayor Woodards thanked all attendees, Council Members, and staff for their participation; and noted future opportunities to speak on the budget, including the budget public hearing and Community Forum on October 27, 2020, and the second budget public hearing on November 10, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk