



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**December 01, 2020**

**12:00 PM**

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### JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

#### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint meeting to order at 12:04 p.m.

#### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Beale, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Blocker

Public Utility Board Members:

**Present:** 5 - Bushnell, Cooley, Flint, Patterson, and Watson.

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived at 12:05 p.m.

All Council Members and Public Utility Board Members participated virtually.

#### Joint City Council / Public Utility Board Briefing Item

1. [20-0916](#) Citywide State and Federal Legislative Priorities

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived here, at 12:05 p.m.

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, made opening remarks and introduced Briahna Murray, Vice President, Gordon Thomas Honeywell Governmental Affairs; and Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, and Marian Dacca, State Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU). Together, they presented the state and federal priorities, including the 2021 general government federal agenda, noting the response to the COVID-19 crisis, criminal justice system transformation, affordable housing and homelessness, infrastructure, economic security, human dignity and safety, and climate justice; the 2021 TPU federal agenda, noting TPU-wide tools and

programs, Water, Rail, and Power; the 2021 General Government state priorities, noting systems transformation, the response to the COVID-19 crisis as partners, the Northwest ICE Processing Center, affordable housing and homelessness, the transportation revenue package, capital budget request, community partner priorities, and highlights of various topics that the City may engage in; the 2021 TPU state agenda, noting Power, Water, and Rail; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding other projects on the priority list, incentives for heating electrification in the future, the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program as an economic development tool versus other tools for affordable housing, modifying the MFTE program to create more affordable housing, authorizing speed cameras in areas outside of school zones, and communication between the City and its partners.

The joint study session adjourned, and the regular study session convened at 1:14 p.m.

## City Council Briefing Items

2. [20-0918](#) Tacoma Smelter Plume Project Annual Update

At approximately 1:15 p.m., Lisa Spadoni, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided opening remarks and introduced Amy Hargrove, Tacoma Smelter Plume Remediation Manager, and Marian Abbett, Tacoma Smelter Plume Manager, Washington Department of Ecology. Together they presented the Tacoma Smelter Plume Yard program update, including topics; history of the smelter; a map of predicted arsenic levels due to the smelter plume yard; health impacts; ways people can be exposed; healthy actions; the Asarco settlement for the future cost of cleaning up the smelter plume; smelter plume spending; Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department outreach and education, noting working with residents to cover bare patches of soil, adaptations to education and outreach during the COVID-19 crisis, the Yard program service area, arsenic sampling results, 2020 impacts to soil replacement work, a map of soil replacement progress in Tacoma, a map of the soil replacement sequence, the Dirt Alert map, the Environmental Protection Agency survey, and technical assistance; and next steps.

3. [20-0920](#) 2020 Planning and Development Services Public Hearing Debrief

At approximately 1:45 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, and Larry Harala, Senior Planner, PDS, presented the public hearing debrief

regarding the 2020 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan, including applications; the Heidelberg-Davis site, noting concerns heard at the public hearing and response, land use designations, uses allowed, effects of amendment; the View Sensitive Overlay district, noting concerns and response, and the overlay district map; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding amendments to the ordinances, collaboration between developers and homeowners, development restrictions, impacts on density, tree restrictions, conflicts of policy regarding equity and affordability, private benefit versus public benefit, properties with special protections, setting a precedent protecting lack of density, tax implications of views being blocked, possible exceptions to height limits, and views in areas not within the View Overlay Districts.

4. [20-0921](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 2:40 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items.

## Other Items of Interest

Mayor Woodards stated that the non-profit organization Forterra has requested \$1.5 million in a funding appropriation in Governor Jay Inslee's 2021-2022 budget proposal, for design and construction of a 350-unit attainable housing project in Tacoma's Hilltop neighborhood.

**MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to have the full City Council sign the letter to Governor Inslee in support of Forterra's request.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Beale, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Abstain:** 1 - Blocker

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

5. [20-0922](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 25, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there are no ceremonials and no expected changes on tonight's agenda.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk