



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

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

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

December 06, 2022

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Council Member Blocker called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

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MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to appoint Council Member Blocker to serve as Presiding Officer of the City Council until the arrival of Deputy Mayor Ushka.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

Public comment was taken.

No individuals addressed the City Council.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh and Walker

Absent: 2 - Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh and Walker

Absent: 2 - Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Deputy Mayor Ushka arrived at 12:33 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [22-1343](#) Home in Tacoma Phase 2 Update

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided opening remarks on the Home in Tacoma (HIT) Project Phase 2 updates, including meeting objectives. Elliott Barnett, Senior Planner, PDS, presented the HIT Project as part of the Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS); HIT Project

Phase 1 outcomes, noting establishing a middle housing growth strategy, and direction; the Phase 2 process, noting implementing Tacoma's new housing growth vision; Phase 2 project milestones, noting a timeline, goals, and outcomes; Phase 2 project scoping, noting activities from January to June 2022, input received, and how the input helped refine the project scope; the ongoing planning analysis; zoning, standards, and affordability and anti-displacement, noting the adopted policy direction and key decisions to be made; the engagement strategy, noting key topics and upcoming communications; and next steps and City Council involvement.

Deputy Mayor Ushka arrived here, at 12:33 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding engagement and outreach, noting the Phase 1 process, providing information in multiple formats and platforms, mailings, adding HIT Project information to other City communications, interactive tools and maps, external consultants, the need for additional outreach beyond the City's standard process, explaining to the public why the changes are necessary, and ensuring PDS staff are available for in-person Council District meetings; zoning districts, noting how zones might change, criteria, and maps; responding to community questions; state-level policy considerations, noting the Association of Washington Cities Housing Solutions Group, and the relationship between state and local regulations; equity considerations; providing background on the AHAS and HIT Project Phase 1 as part of the Phase 2 process; low- and mid-scale density areas; appreciation for staff; the timeline for future decisions; the role of City Council standing committees, noting the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee; possible state legislation and impacts on local zoning; why the HIT Project changes are important and necessary; and addressing community concerns about the possible impacts.

Other Items of Interest

2. [22-1344](#) 2023 Citywide Federal and State Legislative Agenda

Sonja Hallum, Government Relations Officer, City Manager's Office, provided opening remarks on Resolution No. 41083, regarding adoption of the priority issues for the 2023 sessions of the United States Congress and Washington State Legislature, noting that the resolution is on tonight's meeting agenda. She further outlined proposed motions to amend the resolution, including Motion No. 1, which adds language to support funding for Pierce County for permanent supportive housing in the Pierce County Village and for the Pierce County ferry, in alignment with the Pierce County Council's legislative agenda; and Motion No. 2, which adds language to

support funding for housing assistance for children and families in the state child welfare system.

Discussion ensued regarding pending action by the Pierce County Council at their meeting this afternoon, and a request for updates prior to tonight's City Council meeting.

3. [22-1347](#) Council Action Memorandum - Codifying Equity in the City Manager's Duties

Council Member Blocker presented a City Council Action Memorandum requesting an ordinance to codify the City's Office of Equity and Human Rights as part of the departments and offices that represent the City's codified administrative services, and adding to the official duties of the City Manager. He further outlined the duties, Resolution No. 40622 related to systemic racism, protected classes, addressing issues that impact race and the relationship with other protected classes, race versus ethnicity in the United States census, and the reason for focusing on racial equity.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the City's anti-racist transformation efforts, appreciation for past work, importance of creating a sustainable and formal program, long-range impacts, and acknowledgement that there is still a lot of work to be done.

4. [22-1348](#) Council Consideration Request - Dia de los Muertos Event Barricades

Council Member Walker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$9,019.84 of Council Contingency Funds to fund barricades for the October 29, 2022, Día de los Muertos procession, noting that Public Works (PW) staff helped provide barricades on short notice, the need to reimburse those costs, and work to plan ahead for future events.

Discussion ensued regarding past City Council support for business districts that host community events, requirements for traffic barriers, and appreciation for PW staff.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [22-1349](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, December 1, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Saturday, December 10, 2022, as Jo Koy Day. She concluded by stating that changes are expected to tonight's agenda, including two motions that may be considered to amend Resolution No. 41083, regarding adoption of the priority issues for the 2023 sessions of the United States Congress and Washington State Legislature.

Discussion ensued regarding resolutions on tonight's meeting agenda related to setting public hearings, whether people can make public comment on those actions, and the relationship to the proposed Bridge Industrial warehouse project in South Tacoma.

Closed Session

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 1 - Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to Closed Session at 1:27 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Closed Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:44 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:44 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk