



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

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

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

July 27, 2021

12:00 PM

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conference Room 16

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:12 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Hines

Council Members Hunter and McCarthy participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0710](#) American Rescue Plan Act Update

At approximately 12:13 p.m., Mayor Woodards made opening remarks and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, and Reid Bennion, Lead Analyst, Office of Management and Budget, and Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development. Ms. Johnston presented an update on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), including an overview, the process, purpose of today's exercise to prioritize projects, the focus on affordable housing and homelessness, access items for consideration in 2022, next steps, and Pierce County funding and partnership opportunities. Mr. Bennion reviewed ARPA distributions related to affordable housing and homelessness, including the purpose, noting priority area buckets, a request for feedback from City Council standing committees, and next steps; the purpose of today's exercise; and allocations. Mr. Robinson reviewed a previous proposal to allocate \$2 million for additional affordable housing property acquisition, noting that the project no longer appears to be ready to move forward; and outlined alternative options to use the funds. Mr. Bennion further reviewed other items for consideration related to affordable housing and homelessness, including youth homelessness services, HOPE Center safety funding, rental and utility assistance, the homeless hiring program, and returning homeless services that were reduced during budget development.

He concluded by reviewing funding priorities related to access, noting funding availability is for 2022 only; an example of the process and next steps; and a timeline.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding sources for additional funding, unallocated funds remaining, HOPE Center safety funding, review by the Economic Development Committee, hiring and employment opportunities, potential property acquisitions, programs funded by Pierce County, utility assistance opportunities, support for nonprofit developers, potential uses of housing trust funds or Washington House Bill 1590 funds, confirming funding for specific Council Member proposals, reducing barriers to affordable housing development, strategic and targeted funding, youth homelessness services, clarifying which programs are slated to receive funding, and City Council interest in funding the proposals and using remaining funds for property acquisition.

Other Items of Interest

2. [21-0711](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Fred Scruggs, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including an investigation timeline, interviews completed and planned, and communications with the Washington State Patrol.

2a. [21-0740](#) Council Consideration Request - Eastside Farmer's Market

Council Member Walker presented a Council Consideration Request for \$5,500 of Council Contingency Funds to support the Eastside Farmers Market through summer 2021, noting challenges related to COVID-19, funding gaps, equity impacts, and resources for residents.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Member support of the proposed resolution.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [21-0712](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, July 22, 2021

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming July 2021 as United Way Summer Meals Month, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the United Way of Pierce County, and a systems transformation update; and that one change is expected to tonight's agenda, to amend Ordinance No. 28773 regarding Electric System Revenue and Refunding Bonds, to make minor edits and clarification to language as recommended by bond counsel. She further reported that plans to hold hybrid meetings have been postponed to August 10, 2021, to complete modifications to the Council Chamber; and outlined continuing requirements to provide remote attendance options for all public meetings, noting technology challenges that need to be addressed.

Executive Session - Discuss Qualifications of an Applicant for Public Employment and Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to an Executive Session to discuss the qualifications of an applicant for public employment pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), and potential litigation pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii), not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Hines and McCarthy

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 1:25 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session was extended by 30 minutes at 1:55 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk