



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

March 25, 2014

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

Present: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Walker

Briefing Items

1. 14-0234

Legislative Update

Mayor Strickland announced the first study session topic is a legislative update. Randy Lewis, Government Relations Officer, reviewed upcoming key dates, a summary of the City's legislative agenda, and session updates related to liens, waste oil, speed cameras, affordable housing, and marijuana. Mr. Lewis concluded by reviewing the supplemental operating and capital budgets, and next steps. Discussion ensued regarding reimbursement of liquor taxes, liens, whether commercial businesses licensed to sell marijuana derivatives and concentrates need a food handler's permit, mechanics liens, tax breaks, outreach with local community banks regarding liens, the impacts of using liquefied natural gas, and local transportation tools. Council Member Campbell requested staff check with Making a Difference in Community regarding a low-income assistance program that uses liens to help fix homes.

2. 14-0235

Temporary Homeless Camp Permitting Process

Mayor Strickland announced the next study session topic is the proposed permitting process for temporary homeless camps. Brian Boudet, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided background information regarding homeless camps in the City. John Harrington, PDS, reviewed components of the proposal, including the permit process, occupants, siting, other development standards, and the application fee. Discussion ensued regarding temporary homeless camps, including regulation requirements, the proximity of transit stops to local churches with sites larger than 7500 square feet, storm water regulations, the number of homeless shelters and individuals in the City, the screening process, and background checks.

Discussion continued regarding temporary homeless camps, including whether individuals that do not qualify for mental health reasons are provided resources, whether Mental Health Chemical Dependency funding can be used to provide services to homeless individuals with mental health problems, the impact on surrounding neighborhoods, undocumented individuals, conditional use permits, and insurance requirements. Council Member Thoms requested information regarding potential holes in services provided to homeless individuals in the City. Council Member Mello requested staff contact other jurisdictions regarding their policy for undocumented individuals at homeless camps, and an example of the 400-foot community notice radius at a hypothetical camp in the City.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there will be a proclamation proclaiming March 27, 2014 as Tacoma Historical Society Day, and a recognition of the First Quarter 2014 Human Rights Champion Award recipient.

3. 14-0220 Weekly Report to the City Council, March 20, 2014

Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Boe moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, the session not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.

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

Ayes: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Walker

Mayor Strickland stated Council would take a five minute break followed by Executive Session.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 1:45 p.m. City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli was present.

The Executive Session was extended for 15 minutes at 2:00 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended for 15 minutes at 2:15 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended for 15 minutes at 2:30 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended for 15 minutes at 2:45 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk