



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 3423 3126

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/84834233126 Passcode: 349099

May 09, 2023

5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 2 - Diaz and Ushka

Council Member Diaz arrived at 5:02 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Deputy Mayor Walker 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.

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Walker.

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Council Member Diaz arrived here, at 5:02 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. [23-0468](#) Minutes of the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, January 12, 2023.
2. [23-0457](#) Minutes of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, October 26, 2022.
3. [23-0458](#) Minutes of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, December 14, 2022.
4. [23-0459](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, October 19, 2022.
5. [23-0460](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, November 2, 2022.

6. [23-0464](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board study session, April 12, 2023.
7. [23-0465](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board meeting, April 12, 2023.
8. [23-0471](#) Minutes of the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board, April 3, 2023.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Mayor Woodards stated a motion will be considered to amend Exhibit “A” of Resolution No. 41192, to remove a nominee from the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

CONSENT AGENDA

9. [23-0481](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, November 8, 2022.
10. [23-0483](#) Minutes of the joint City Council and Public Utility Board study session, November 15, 2022.
11. [23-0484](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, November 22, 2022.
12. [23-0482](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, January 31, 2023.
13. [23-0485](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, February 7, 2023.

PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

14. [RES41191](#) A resolution awarding a contract to Rognlin’s, Inc., in the amount of \$1,436,500, plus applicable taxes, plus a 20 percent contingency, budgeted from the Wastewater Fund, for construction of the Central Treatment Plant Secondary Clarifier No. 5 Restoration Project, for a projected contract total of \$1,723,800 - Specification No. ES23-0026F.
[Lance Bunch, P.E., Project Manager; Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services]

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

15. [ORD28880](#) An ordinance vacating a portion of undeveloped South 35th Street, west of South “G” Street, to facilitate expansion of public school sports fields and parking.
(Tacoma School District No. 10; File No. 124.1437)
[Jeff H. Capell, Hearing Examiner]

PAYMENTS

16. [23-0466](#) Date Range - 04/10/2023 to 04/23/2023
Payroll in the amount of \$20,167,288.06; Payments in the amount of \$21,152,430.49; for a total of \$41,319,718.55.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 41191 and first reading of Ordinance No. 28880.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to accept the Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations of the Hearing Examiner for Ordinance No. 28880.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 41191 and setting Ordinance No. 28880 over to a date to be determined. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

17. [23-0477](#) Proclaiming May 12-13, 2023, as Tacoma Garden Club Days.

Deputy Mayor Walker, on behalf of Mayor Woodards, proclaimed May 12-13, 2023, as Tacoma Garden Club Days and presented the proclamation to Karen Larkin, President, and Cynthia Morris, Floral Design Chair, Tacoma Garden Club.

18. [23-0478](#) Proclaiming May 14-20, 2023, as National Police Week.

Mayor Woodards proclaimed May 14-20, 2023, as National Police Week and presented the proclamation to Chief Avery Moore, Tacoma Police Department (TPD).

19. [23-0479](#) Proclaiming May 2023 as Hunger Awareness Month.

Council Member Rumbaugh, on behalf of Mayor Woodards, proclaimed May 2023 as Hunger Awareness Month and presented the proclamation to Claire Aijian, Development Director, Emergency Food Network.

20. [23-0480](#) Compassionate Tacoma Recognition: The Organizers and Officers Leading the Gun Buy Back Program.

Mayor Woodards recognized the organizers and officers leading the Gun Buy Back Program and presented the Compassionate Tacoma recognition to Chief Moore; Lindsay Finney, Manager, Children's Advocacy Center; and Centura Grey, Property Room Manager, TPD and Pierce County Sheriff's Department.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment began at 5:31 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received four written comments for Public Comment on 23-0469, regarding the reappointment of Elizabeth Pauli to the position of City Manager.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Michele Reich, speaking on the National Police Week proclamation.
2. Les Pogue Jr., speaking on the National Police Week proclamation.
3. Michelle Mood, speaking on 23-0469.
4. Tim Smith, speaking on 23-0469.
5. April Smith, speaking on 23-0469.

6. Alton McDonald, speaking on 23-0469.
7. Stacy Oaks, speaking on 23-0469.
8. Kathy Lawhon, speaking on 23-0469.

Public Comment ended at 5:48 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

21. [23-0469](#) A motion may be considered regarding the reappointment of Elizabeth Pauli to the position of City Manager, approving the annual performance review, and executing a new employment agreement.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved pursuant to Tacoma City Charter Article III Section 3.1 to reconfirm the appointment of Elizabeth Pauli to serve as City Manager for a two year period beginning May 16, 2023, and ending May 15, 2025, approve the annual performance review of the City Manager, and approve and authorize the execution of a successor employment agreement in the form on file in the office of the City Clerk.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

APPOINTMENTS

22. [RES41192](#) A resolution appointing and reappointing individuals to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41192.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to amend Exhibit “A” of Resolution No. 41192 on page 2, line 3, to strike “Appointing Jesse Becerra to fill an unexpired term, to expire March 31, 2026”.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

Public comment was taken.

No individuals addressed the City Council.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The Resolution, as amended, was declared adopted.

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

23. [RES41193](#) A resolution appointing and reappointing individuals to the Sustainable Tacoma Commission.
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41193.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

24. [RES41194](#) A resolution appointing individuals to committees to prepare statements “For” and “Against” Proposition No. 1, concerning the Emergency Medical Services levy lid lift, which will appear in the Voters’ Pamphlet for the August 1, 2023, Primary Election.
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41194.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

RESOLUTIONS

25. [RES41195](#) A resolution directing the Planning Commission and Transportation Commission to create a joint task force to provide coordinated policy direction on transit-oriented development policies and plans, with a particular focus on the upcoming periodic update of the Comprehensive Plan, including the Transportation Master Plan. [Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager; Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services]

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41195.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

26. [ORD28881](#) A supplemental ordinance authorizing the execution of an amendment to the Note Purchase Agreement related to the City's Electric System Subordinate Revenue Note, Series 2020 (Taxable); and delegating the authority to approve the final terms of the amendment. [Michelle Brown, Financial Planning Supervisor; Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28881 was set over for final reading next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Forum began at 6:30 p.m.

The City Clerk’s Office received six written comments for Community Forum regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project, Native American genocide plan, a response to delays in light rail connections to Pierce County, and Multi-Family Housing Property Tax Exemptions.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Cathie Urwin, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
2. Barbara Church, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
3. Michele Reich, regarding Native American genocide.
4. Oneida Arnold, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
5. La Jonna Johnson, regarding crime.
6. Liz Ryan, regarding safety at the East 72nd Street and East McKinley Avenue intersection.
7. Sylvia Rodriguez, regarding homelessness and crime.
8. Alton McDonald, regarding crime and the TPD.
9. Michelle Mood, regarding powers of the City Council.
10. Les Pogue Jr., regarding public comment formats and the City Manager.
11. Tim Smith, regarding the South Tacoma warehouse project.
12. April Smith, regarding homeownership and the South Tacoma warehouse project.
13. Kathy Lawhon, regarding crime, the TPD, and the South Tacoma warehouse project.

Community Forum ended at 6:54 p.m.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

There was no report.

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Council Member Daniels addressed comments from Community Forum regarding a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the South Tacoma warehouse project.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Economic Development Committee

Council Member Blocker, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, reported at the April 25, 2023, meeting, the Committee received presentations on the 2023 business climate survey and the Equity in

Contracting annual report; and at today's meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the 2023 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color chamber feasibility study, and heard from the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce business and industry panel to discuss how the City can improve communication and better support the local businesses. He concluded by stating the next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on May 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., and will include interviews for the City Events and Recognitions Committee.

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Mayor Woodards expressed appreciation for Council Member Daniels' request for clarification about the HIA for the South Tacoma warehouse project; and announced that a resolution will be brought forward at the Tuesday, May 16, 2023, City Council meeting to have a safe place for kids to go in the summer, noting it would be five days a week from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. She continued by stating that in addition to the TPD Violent Crime Reduction Plan, the City has doubled investments in youth violence prevention, is hosting the Together We End Gun Violence conference at the end of this month, and reminded everyone that a gun is stolen out of a vehicle every 57 hours. She further stated that last week Governor Inslee signed Washington Senate Bill 5606, which will allow police officers to have the additional tools needed to deter and enforce against illegal street racing, including the ability to impound vehicle use on first offense.

Mayor Woodards continued by providing an update on the behavioral health crisis response team, noting the City is now hiring for the positions of behavioral health case manager, behavioral health crisis responder, and mobile unit registered nurse; and that the City Council passed Ordinance No. 28879 on April 25, 2023, effective today, which included the creation of a new unarmed Community Service Officer job classification within the TPD, and that staff are developing a timeline for training plans and logistics.

She concluded by announcing that the City now has seven team members that provide outreach to those experiencing homelessness, recruitment for an eighth position will begin soon, and hiring for these positions allows Neighborhood and Community Services to continue shifting to a model with less law enforcement presence during outreach in locations where it is safe to do so.

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MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to excuse Council Member Ushka from the meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Ushka

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk