



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

December 19, 2017

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present: 7 - Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Campbell

Council Member Campbell arrived at 12:22 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [17-1338](#) Environmental Action Plan

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Mike Slevin, Director, Environmental Services (ES), made opening remarks on the Environmental Action Plan. Jim Parvey, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager, ES, provided an overview and elements of the Plan, noting the intent to consolidate all ES goals into this one plan. Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Officer, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, reviewed target levels in the following areas: buildings and energy, transportation, and materials management.

Discussion ensued regarding the support for more ridership resources to elevate bike boulevards, clarification on electric vehicle target and infrastructure to support electric vehicles, a backup plan to deal with China no longer importing recycled household waste, and what the City can do to meet the recycling requirements.

Council Member Campbell arrived here, at 12:22 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding coordinating and communicating with City partners for a cohesive policy and message and community feedback on the Bring Your Own Bag implementation.

Ms. Lynett continued reviewing target levels in the Plan, including natural

systems, air and local food, and climate resiliency.

Discussion ensued regarding urban forestry and unused and unimproved right-of-ways, the location of Eastside Farmers Market, ways of connecting residents to local food, community gardens versus gardening in backyards, and the need of a legislative policy for better forest management for better air quality. Discussion continued regarding the support for creating a task force to strategize and attract more private sector green jobs, climate resiliency role in subarea plans and other feature projects, and the need for the City to provide an analysis on climate change.

Mr. Parvey then provided information on the greenhouse gas inventory, including its cycle, regional impacts of greenhouse gas emissions with observed changes from the 2016 climate change resilience report and projected changes in the Pacific Northwest by 2050, and community emission of all gas categories in 2016 and its data on community greenhouse gas emissions with and without industrial customers.

Discussion ensued regarding methane gas emission, the reason for Puget Sound Energy losing major industrial customers, cumulative effects, and communicating and enforcing City laws.

Mr. Parvey provided information on the City operation emissions in 2016 and emission estimates since 1999. He concluded by reviewing the sooner versus later paths and provided links to the Environmental Action Plan progress report and the greenhouse gas inventory.

Discussion ensued regarding carbon capture, strategies to promote electric vehicles, incentives, diesel transportation, the current number of registered electric vehicles, the meaning of electric vehicles, the need for adding charging stations for electric vehicles in historic districts and other essential areas in Tacoma, and the need for adding more street lights in the eastside and the southend of Tacoma.

Other Items of Interest

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli shared concerns raised by individuals regarding Tacoma Police Department (TPD) responding to protesters at the Puget Sound Energy Liquefied Natural Gas facility. She stated safety of the community, surrounding businesses, responders, and protesters is the City and TPD's number one priority. She stated the response was based on the number of protesters and the location, and that TPD responded appropriately.

Discussion ensued regarding impacts on employees, involvement of the Tacoma Fire Department, court ruling on previous protesters, property

ownership issues, and the need for communicating with Puget Sound Energy.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [17-1339](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, December 14, 2017

City Manager Pauli stated there are no ceremonials and she expects no changes to tonight's agenda.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 8 - Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Blocker

The Council convened to Closed Session at 1:30 p.m.

The Closed Session was extended by 20 minutes at 1:40 p.m., 15 minutes at 2:00 p.m., and 5 minutes at 2:15 p.m.

The Closed Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:20 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk