



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Telephonic

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April 17, 2020

2:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

All Council Members participated virtually.

BRIEFING ITEMS

1. [20-0305](#) Approval of the submission of a letter to Governor Inslee regarding broadband services and access to computers for all students.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to approve the submission of the letter to Governor Inslee regarding broadband services and access to computers for all students.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

Council Member Ushka presented the intent behind the letter.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

2. [20-0306](#) Update on the status and impact of the COVID-19 virus and the City's response including:
- Update on the Small Business Loan Program;
 - Update on the City of Tacoma's financial status; and
 - Update from the City Manager.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli introduced Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development, who provided an update on the Small Business Loan Program, including set up; how the applicants are judged; the reasoning behind two submission deadlines; a summary of the applications and approvals process; businesses approved so far; statistics for those businesses, noting time in business, number of employees, industries and sectors, business owner race and gender statistics, and geography of businesses and district percentages; and when businesses can expect to receive the loans.

Discussion ensued regarding increasing applications from certain areas in the City, additional outreach efforts, funding already used, ways to expand the businesses receiving help, other assistance programs, helping businesses apply for assistance, average time for loan processing, and businesses who don't qualify for local programs.

Deputy City Manager Tadd Wille outlined the City's financial status, noting financial goals of the City and best practices already in place, and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance. Ms. Johnston presented the financial updates, including budget reduction strategies, noting limiting hiring, reducing administrative costs and general maintenance and operations costs, cancelling projects, using reserves, and reducing personnel costs; the 40 million dollar reduction in revenues in 2020; budget initiatives and capital project updates, noting completed or continuing projects and cancelled projects in 2020 for affordable housing, homelessness, public safety, economic development, government performance, environmental, civic engagement, and capital projects; revenue options; City Council role and next steps, noting financial policies and policy direction, budget proposals, and budget adjustments and approval; and upcoming major funds updates.

City Manager Pauli stated that the Rental Assistance Program application website will be going live this afternoon and will be open for two weeks.

Deputy City Manager Wille provided an update regarding Environmental Services centers reopening and the average number of City employees working from home.

3. [20-0308](#) Approval of an Emergency Rule imposing a moratorium on residential evictions for non-payment in the event the Governor's Proclamation 20-19 is not extended beyond April 17, 2020.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to remove Item No. 3 from the agenda.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

Discussion ensued regarding why the Item was being removed from the agenda.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk