



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

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

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

October 03, 2023

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Walker called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Blocker, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 3 - Bushnell, Daniels and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:00 p.m.

Mayor Woodards arrived at 1:03 p.m.

Council Member Ushka participated virtually, and Council Member Diaz initially participated virtually and arrived in person at 12:04 p.m.

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Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:00 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [23-0970](#) State and Federal Legislative Agendas

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer, City Manager’s Office (CMO), introduced Rosa McLeod, Senior Government Affairs Advisor, CMO, Briahna Murray, State Lobbyist, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, and Jen Covino, President, Simon and Company, Inc.; and provided opening remarks and overview of 2024 legislative documents, including state legislative policy positions and priorities, and federal policy positions and priorities. She then presented the 2024 General Government (GG) state policy positions, including safety, noting law enforcement, court alternatives, community violence, drug possession, and fire; housing and homelessness, noting affordable housing, homelessness services, rental housing, and infrastructure; jobs, noting livable wage jobs, economic development tools and support, and equity and diversity; access, noting equity and empowerment, transportation and infrastructure, telecommunications, digital access and childcare; health, noting behavioral health and environment;

and additional policy positions, noting fiscal issues, planning, GG, and other items.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding domestic violence and sexual assault funding and legislation; protection orders, noting surrendering assault weapons; drug possession, noting the opioid task force; litter tax and graffiti; appreciation for the presentation breakdown; safety; recreational vehicles; Climate Action Plan funding; environmental protection, noting funding for green jobs; engagement with larger agencies and partners; abandoned vehicles; rental assistance; employment barriers; weather related shelters; youth violence prevention, noting youth night events; therapeutic courts; Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge; fiscal issues, noting property tax and Real Estate Excise Tax; operational funding for shelters; transportation budget; housing and homelessness, noting rental stabilization and tenant protections; carbon tax dollars; Growing Resilience In Tacoma program; progressive forms of revenue; and capital project requests.

McLeod presented the 2024 GG federal policy positions, including safety, noting law enforcement, court alternatives, community violence, specific community offenses, and fire; and housing and homelessness, noting affordable housing, financing, access, federal funding, homelessness services, and infrastructure.

Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 1:03 p.m.

McLeod continued with review of federal policy positions related to jobs, noting livable wage jobs, economic development tools and support, and equity and diversity; access, noting equity and empowerment, transportation and infrastructure, telecommunications, and childcare; health, noting behavioral health and environment; and additional policy positions, noting civil rights.

Discussion continued regarding Black, Indigenous, and People of Color homeownership; childcare; environmental justice, noting climate mitigation and adaptation; defending a woman's right to choose and health care access; caution on terminology; low-income housing tax credit; draft priorities, noting Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge and funding, housing, and community violence reduction; preemption and local control; and budget, noting mid-biennium amendments and projections.

Other Items of Interest

2. [23-0971](#) Council Consideration Request - Pictures of Hope Sponsorship

Council Member Hines presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$12,750 of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor the Pictures of Hope, a

nationwide, award-winning non-profit program which pairs homeless children with volunteer mentors who help the children express their hopes and dreams through the lens of a camera, with the intent of showing each child that their hopes and dreams matter. He concluded by stating the City's sponsorship would enable Pictures of Hope to work with Tacoma Rescue Mission to serve fifteen homeless children, and the children will be shown how to use a digital camera and each one will receive their own digital camera and memory card, as well as a camera bag, to keep as gifts.

Discussion ensued regarding relationships between mentor and mentee, engagement of youth, and helping them achieve their hopes.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [23-0972](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 28, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Friday, October 6, 2023, as Manufacturing Day, proclaiming October 2-6, 2023, as Freedom to Read Week, and proclaiming October 2023 as Tacoma Arts Month, and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to convene to a closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Bushnell

Adjournment

The closed session was held after adjournment of the study session.

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk