



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

Telephonic

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 0943 8889

June 16, 2020

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

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

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [20-0392](#) COVID-19 Response Updates

Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided an update on NCS programs, including the Rental Assistance Program and funds, 24-hour emergency shelters at churches, the expansion of the Tacoma Emergency Micro Shelter Site at 60th Street and McKinley Avenue, virtual counseling services for mental health concerns related to the pandemic, and digital efforts to collaborate with service providers.

Discussion ensued regarding timelines and public outreach for donations to the assistance program.

Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development, provided an update on the Make it Tacoma website, the COVID-19 recovery loans, outreach to minority-owned businesses regarding recovery loans, funds awarded to Tacoma by the Economic Development Administration and the next application, community partners, business opportunities still available in Tacoma, follow-up surveys with businesses that received loans and those that did not, and partnerships with other city and state organizations.

Discussion ensued regarding the Black community and Black-owned businesses, percentages of businesses receiving Pierce County funds that are based in Tacoma, funding specifically for Black-owned businesses, training for Black-owned and brown-owned businesses, and providing assistance for

small businesses to help them reopen.

Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, presented an update on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds, including amount of funds Washington State received from the United States Department of the Treasury, the amount set aside for Tacoma, eligible uses of the funds, guidance for sharing the funds, and requesting additional funds for Tacoma.

Discussion ensued regarding how the funds are distributed, the reimbursement process, and finding a pre-approval process.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided an update on masks donated by our Sister City, Fuzhou, China, and how they are being distributed.

Discussion ensued regarding left over masks, how businesses might request masks for distribution, funding for childcare facilities, mask distribution to school districts, and how the masks will be distributed.

2. [20-0394](#) Study Session and Standing Committee Topics

Bill Fosbre, City Attorney, provided an update on the Open Public Meetings Act, including options for holding Council meetings, virtual "locations", and what other cities are doing for their meetings.

Discussion ensued regarding the options, possible outcomes, and impacts on staff and the public.

City Manager Pauli provided an update on staffing, including scheduling; Standing Committees; and Committees, Boards, and Commissions.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding public interaction for meetings; suggested schedules for Standing Committees and Committees, Boards, and Commissions; a motion to be walked on at tonight's City Council meeting to establish a virtual meeting space for all meetings; and when to set the time for re-evaluation for the virtual meeting space.

Mayor Woodards provided an update on the June 23, 2020, and June 30, 2020, study session agenda items.

City Manager Pauli stated that she was working on establishing a forum for the City Council to discuss efforts on police reform and addressing systemic racism.

Discussion ensued regarding community outreach.

Other Items of Interest

Mayor Woodards recognized June 19, 2020, as Juneteenth Day.

Mayor Woodards stated that Ms. Gallagher had shared a draft letter to the congressional delegation thanking them for their co-sponsorship of the George Floyd Justice and Policing Act of 2020, and asked the City Attorney to draft a walk-on motion to bring the letter to the City Council tonight.

Council Member Hunter stated that the Firearms and Ammunition Tax would be put on hold until more research can be done.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [20-0388](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, June 11, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there will be one ceremonial on tonight's agenda, proclaiming June 19, 2020, as Juneteenth Day. She further stated that Mayor Woodards will bring forward the letter for the congressional delegation, and that there are no other expected changes to tonight's agenda.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:49 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk