



# 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](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**October 31, 2023**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

Council Member Daniels arrived at 12:07 p.m.

Council Member Ushka participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [23-1068](#) Tree Ordinance

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Jim Parvey, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager, Environmental Services (ES), introduced Mike Carey, Principal Natural Resources Analyst, ES, and Lisa Spadoni, Principal Regulatory Compliance Analyst, Planning and Development Services, and provided opening remarks on proposed Tacoma Municipal Code updates related to trees in the right-of-way. Carey presented an overview, adopted policy background, and approach.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 12:07 p.m.

Carey continued with the schedule; purpose, noting big picture and specific issues; street tree permit in regard to pruning; removal, noting permit administration fees; street tree permit in regard to planting; exemptions; tree pruning in City real property; heritage trees; and enforcement. Spadoni concluded with resources for implementation and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding permit fee collection, noting the Urban Forest Fund; responsibility for tree roots damaging sidewalks; accessibility;

assistance for hazardous tree removal responsibility; Urban Forest Management Plan; public notice requirements; conflict trees; tree removal and replacement requirements; tree care; heat islands, environment, and the Climate Action Plan; fee in lieu options for enforcement; resources; permit exemptions; Tacoma Tree Foundation; property owner responsibilities; heritage trees; appreciation for staff; nuisance code violation penalties; process for tree removal and cost recovery; and timeline.

**Other Items of Interest**

- 2. [23-1069](#) Council Consideration Request - Mayor’s Youth Commission Travel Sponsorship

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$20,000 of Council Contingency Funds to sponsor the Mayor’s Youth Commission of Tacoma to travel to the National League of Cities Conference to gain meaningful experience and learn from other cities youth commissioners, noting the youth participants can attend all regular conference sessions, and have access to specific sessions and opportunities focused specifically on youth attendees. She concluded by stating these opportunities allow our youth to gain meaningful experience that will help them as they graduate high school and enter the world to become our next generation of leaders.

Discussion ensued regarding funds left in the Council Contingency Fund.

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Mayor Woodards discussed key dates for the upcoming Charter Review Committee and process, including the review of applicants at the December 12, 2023, study session.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports given.

**Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

- 3. [23-1070](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 26, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one proclamation on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming October 30-November 3, 2023, as National Veterans Small Business Week; and that no changes are expected to tonight’s agenda.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:13 pm.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk