



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

November 14, 2017

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Thoms called the study session to order at 12:09 p.m.

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

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Mayor Strickland

Briefing Items

1. [17-1175](#) Two-Year Funding Priorities for Housing and Urban Development Funds

At approximately 12:09 p.m., Daniel Murillo, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development, made opening remarks and provided background information to release the Notice of Funding Availability regarding the two-year funding priorities for the Housing Division, including the 2017 key dates, noting approval is needed to proceed with the application process; purpose; and federal funding trends, noting there are no foreseeable eliminations of both programs. He briefly explained the funding trend chart and the estimated one-year funding allocations. Mr. Murillo then listed information on current priority projects, existing programs, and recommended funding priorities. He continued providing information on general priorities, a breakdown of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) set-aside fund, the focus on housing, funds set aside and projects relating to community development, and economic development priorities. Erica Azcueta, Management Analyst, Neighborhood and Community Services, presented the human services element, including services of the CDBG and the environmental, social, and governance, application process, and timeline. Mr. Murillo concluded by summarizing the recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding a breakdown of a funding per unit for homeownership and rental housing.

2. [17-1176](#) Small Wireless Cell Installations

At approximately 12:22 p.m., Jeff Lueders, Cable Communications and Franchise Services Manager, Media and Communications, thanked staff that helped with the project and reviewed small cell/radiofrequency wireless antennas, including what a small cell is and what other jurisdictions have for small cell infrastructures. He provided information on why the small cells are being discussed and the process. He then covered the current status, next steps, state and federal legislation, and introduced Andrew H. Thatcher, Independent Consulting Health Physicist, to present safety information.

Mr. Thatcher stated he is here to educate the public on radiofrequency exposure and health effects from small cell sites for safety and compliance. He provided compliance information, noting the survey process and methods. He explained the electromagnetic spectrum elements and stated the radiofrequency energy is non-ionizing. Mr. Thatcher provided information on the radiofrequency spectrum analysis in Bellevue, outdoor exposure, ground-level maximum exposure, and a comprehensive analysis of exposure from small cell sites, noting antenna height and power level. He reviewed the typical radiofrequency exposures in everyday life, noting that cell phones are the biggest exposure contributor. He provided information on the basis for standards; standards used around the world; changes over time, including the number of new cases, deaths, and five-year relative survival trends; and the Swedish Council's ten-year update. Mr. Thatcher then reviewed a summary on current radiofrequency exposure and health effects, noting the exposure from small cell sites are low. He concluded by reviewing the summary of radiofrequency facts.

Discussion ensued regarding backup options during a power outage, exposure risks, indicator for power levels, post installation compliance, small cell site application and analysis process, Federal Communications Commission compliance analysis, coverage area, timeline, and the change in amount of radiation over the years.

Other Items of Interest

3. [17-1189](#) Proposed Amendments to Ordinance No. 28470

Council Member Walker Lee presented a proposed amendment on the Tideflats Subarea interim regulations on behalf of Mayor Strickland, including four categories of the interim regulations, with focus on heavy industrial use, to get rid of the 10 percent requirement and the need for conditional use permits; not allowing new fossil fuels while supporting businesses in the port; and the timeline.

Council Member Mello stated the proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 28470 to change the duration of the interim regulations from an initial six months to an initial term of one year, and to add smelters to the list of uses. Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney, provided information on the new proposed smelters section to Title 13 of the Municipal Code.

Discussion ensued regarding the effective date, current smelting status in Tacoma, and the importance of smelting. Discussion continued regarding the decision of the Planning Commission and the 10 percent requirement, conditional use permit process, challenges, and the notification process, and interest of including the residential encroachment protection to the Tideflats interim regulation and the Tacoma Mall Subarea plan was brought forward. Discussion continued on identifying the buffer area and the need for allowing time for changes. Discussion ensued regarding Tideflats interim regulations, concerns brought forward, including possible impacts on local businesses and other neighboring government entities, various industrial chemical classifications, chemical manufacturing examples in the Tideflats area, interim regulation language, anticipated opportunities and costs, and benefits versus negatives.

Council Member McCarthy stated he will be proposing an amendment that would rid of problematic limits on expansion of existing and would strike some of the uses from being banned. Council Member Mello stated that he will be bringing forward another proposed amendment to include that the interim regulation would affect facilities primary uses in all zoning districts to provide clarity to the community.

Discussion concluded by clarifying the primary uses, and discussing a request of the Port of Tacoma, clarifying heading, no change of the intent, application, and effect of the regulations.

4. [17-1190](#) Council Consideration Request - Tacoma Housing Authority Landlord Incentives

Council Member Walker Lee presented a Council Consideration Request to support a pilot project to incentivize rental housing by asking for \$50,000 from the Council Contingency Fund and directing the Human Rights Commission to review adding source of income as a protected class.

Discussion ensued regarding the assessment of the pilot project, a breakdown of the funding, timeline for the pilot project and protected class component, cash incentives for landlords, and the intent for adding source of income as a protected class.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [17-1177](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, November 9, 2017

Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, stated there is one recognition, recognizing the Twin Tiger Taekwondo team, and two proclamations, proclaiming November 14, 2017 as Student Government Day and November 15, 2017 as Tacoma Geographic Information System Day, and preparation of additional amendments presented.

Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Mello moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.

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

Ayes: 7 - Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Walker Lee

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Mayor Strickland

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:25 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Deputy City Attorney Margaret Elofson were present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk