



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Telephonic

Dial: 1-855-747-8824 Passcode: 8215373

April 03, 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: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Thoms

All Council Members participated virtually.

Council Member Thoms arrived at 2:01 p.m.

BRIEFING ITEMS

[20-0273](#)

Final approval of the submission of a letter on behalf of the City Council to Governor Inslee to expand the emergency order to cover residential evictions, commercial business evictions, and waiving resulting fees and penalties.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 2:01 p.m.

Mayor Woodards made opening remarks regarding the submission of a letter on behalf of the City Council to Governor Inslee to expand the emergency order to cover residential evictions, commercial business evictions, and waiving resulting fees and penalties.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to approve the submission of the letter on behalf of the City Council to Governor Inslee.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

Discussion ensued regarding the contents of the letter, communication with the Governor's office and with local banking institutions, and the creation of rental or mortgage assistance programs.

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

20-0274

Final approval of a Statement from the City Council on Anti-Discrimination and COVID-19.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to approve the statement from the City Council on Anti-Discrimination and COVID-19.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

Discussion ensued regarding acts of discrimination that have arisen in response to the COVID-19 emergency.

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

20-0275

Update on the status and impact of the COVID-19 virus and the City's response including:

- Update on the City of Tacoma's financial status;
- Update on how provisions of the Federal CARES Act will be administered;
- Update on communications from ICE regarding the Northwest Ice Processing Center; and
- Update on the City of Tacoma's rental assistance program.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated the Council Members will be invited to a virtual town hall regarding the temporary care center on Hosmer Street.

Discussion ensued regarding how the meeting will operate, how the public will be able to comment, and setting up a meeting for Council Members specifically to ask questions.

City Manager Pauli introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, who presented economic conditions, including an agenda; the general fund during the 2008 recession; economic conditions, noting global trade downturn, all sectors impacted, consumer confidence, pay impacts and job losses, affordability and wage concerns, and experience in other countries; national and local current data; the economic situation, noting uncertainty, negative impacts, duration, early action, and demand for services; revenue scenarios, noting sales and business and occupation taxes; principles guiding response

and financial planning; and planned actions for all funds.

Discussion ensued regarding budget development and options going forward, keeping equity and vulnerable populations in mind, and Council feedback.

Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, presented an update on the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, including how the funds will be distributed, how the City of Tacoma can access these funds, the amounts of various grants, how the funds can be used, the recovery rebate funds, and unemployment benefits.

Ms. Gallagher further provided an update on the Northwest ICE Processing Center, including possible cases of COVID-19 at the center.

Discussion ensued regarding communication with legislators and resources.

Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, presented an update on efforts to support the City's homeless population, including police patrols and response, Planning and Development Services permits for shelters, support for shelter providers, and food insecurity and options for food support. She further presented on the City's Rental Assistance Program proposed approach, including proposed guidelines for qualifications, the proposed award, equitable distribution, staffing, application platform, scenarios for applications processed and the number of people each scenario could assist, and Area Median Income guidelines for Pierce County.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding equity, supporting marginalized communities, utilizing federal funds, and external engagement.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk