



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Conference Room 16
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569
June 11, 2024
12:00 PM

Change of Location

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott and Walker
Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Mayor Woodards

Mayor Woodards arrived at 12:06 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [24-0636](#)

Six-Year Financial Forecast

[Andy Cherullo, Director; Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance]

At approximately 12:01 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on the six-year financial forecast; introduced Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance, and Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget; and presented an agenda, budgeting approach, creating a balanced budget, and long-range forecast.

Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 12:06 p.m.

Cherullo continued by presenting the City's economic conditions summary, including the COVID-19 pandemic recession, inflation, wages, median income, savings, credit card debt, and delinquencies; and what is happening nationally. Johnston continued with an overview of the General Fund long range forecast; 2024 and total revenues, noting actuals, ongoing, and projections; and major General Fund revenues, noting utility, sales, property, and business taxes. Johnston concluded with the expenses in the long range forecast, including the baseline expense budget; departmental examples; total General Fund expenses, noting actuals, ongoing and projections; General Fund expenses by cost category and financial forecast; and other major funds, noting special revenue trends and enterprise funds.

Discussion ensued regarding internal transfers, one-time expense tracking, interest rates in relation to homeless services, average incomes in the City versus Pierce County, wholesale power rates and utility taxes, baseline assumption analytics, parking related fund, leftover American Rescue Plan Act funds, and revenue replacement.

Johnston concluded by presenting next steps to evaluate the baseline to produce a balanced budget, noting reduction targets and re-structure revenues or costs; revenue strategy; fire levy impacts; and timeline.

Discussion continued regarding community outreach, noting the Balance Act online tool; addressing uncertainty, noting preparing alternates for Council; and timeline for adoption of the budget.

2. [24-0637](#)

Fire Levy

[Tory Green, Fire Chief; Teresa Green, Senior Business Services Manager, Tacoma Fire]

At approximately 1:22 p.m., Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), introduced Teresa Green, Budget Officer, TFD, and provided an update on the fire levy, including an overview; proposed ballot title and purpose; response capacity; projected expense budget; facilities; fleet replacements; equipment and supplies; upcoming timeline; and community engagement.

Discussion ensued regarding a map for facility priorities; Northeast Tacoma facilities; location response priorities, noting South King County support; facility response times; training and essential facilities; community engagement, noting video walkthroughs; fleet replacements, noting fire engine delivery timeframe and maintenance on current fire engines; budget expectations; and other municipalities that use TFD.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and (ii) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Daniels.

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

Ayes: 7 - Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Bushnell

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:13 p.m.
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 20 minutes, at 2:43 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened,
at 3:09 p.m.

3. [24-0638](#) Charter Review Committee Recommendations
[Deputy Mayor Hines]

At approximately 3:10 p.m., Council Member Walker provided brief opening remarks on the six Charter Review Committee (CRC) recommendations. City Manager Pauli presented the summary, fiscal note, and legal memorandum on the CRC recommendations, including (1) Salary Commission, (10) Humane Society, (11) Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), (21) Eligibility for Employment – Citizenship, (22) Employment Anti-Discrimination, and (23) New Section – Official Newspaper.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding Salary Commission name change, noting proper process, alignment with State law, and membership requirements; Humane Society input, support, and potential capital funding for a new facility; LPC current membership; original date when eligibility for employment required being a citizen was added to the Charter, noting comparison of when the City resident requirement was added, current practice and waivers, and potential preferential or permissive language; the ability to reference Tacoma Municipal Code sections in the Charter; and risk of using broad language.

4. [24-0640](#) Council Proposed Charter Amendments
[Deputy Mayor Hines]

At approximately 4:07 p.m., Deputy Mayor Hines stated there are no Council proposed Charter amendments to be discussed today.

5. [24-0641](#) Amendments to Charter Review Committee Recommendations
[Deputy Mayor Hines]

At approximately 4:08 p.m., City Manager Pauli provided an overview of staff progress on proposed amendments to the CRC recommendations, including the Form of Government amendment; and updated materials.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [24-0639](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, June 6, 2024
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

City Manager Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, that no changes are expected, and tonight's meeting includes community forum.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.



for Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Nicole Emery, City Clerk