



City of Tacoma

Committee of the Whole Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

9th Floor Visibility Center

April 15, 2014

3:00 PM

Call To Order

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

Present: 6 - Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 3 - Boe, Walker and Woodards

Briefing Items

1. 14-0307 Foreign Direct Investment

Martha Anderson, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), provided opening remarks and background information on CED's work on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). She noted FDI discussions have occurred at the Economic Development Committee in prior years, and there was a request for CED to present on current FDI activities to this Committee. Ms. Anderson then reviewed the surge in FDI and the reasons for the increase; Chinese FDI in the United States and transactions from 2000 to 2013; the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program; trends in Chinese EB-5 investment; and U.S. Mayors' interest in China.

Ms. Anderson then reviewed upcoming trade/investment missions; the Third Annual Pacific Northwest China Trade and Investment Summit June 4-5, 2014 at the Hotel Murano; real estate value; successful EB-5 projects in Tacoma; investment opportunities including hotel/travel destination development, student housing, urban mixed-use facilities, and warehousing/distribution; results, activity to date; and the linkage to education.

Mayor Strickland asked Michael Fowler, of the World Trade Center, to talk about relationship development with foreign visitors or investors. Blaine Johnson, New Passages, LLC, then commented on cultivating foreign relationships and the educational component.

Council Consideration Requests

None.

Committee Reports

Council Member Mello stated the Puget Sound Regional Council had a presentation by the Department of Commerce and Department of Ecology on the Building Cities in the Rain Program and the Environmental Services Department is working hard to access stormwater tools and grants.

Council Member Thoms stated the Joint Municipal Action Committee recently heard about Tacoma Public Schools' mental health programs.

Council Member Lonergan stated he recently visited Durham, North Carolina and learned about their gang-related efforts.

Council Member Ibsen stated the Joint Municipal Action Committee recently heard about Metro Parks' upcoming bond measure and on mental health programs in Tacoma Public Schools.

Council Member Campbell briefly commented on the grand opening of the new Hong Kong supermarket in the Lincoln District. He then stated next week the Economic Development Committee will hear a presentation on the possibility of placing artwork on the roof of the Tacoma Dome. Discussion ensued regarding the current condition of the Tacoma Dome.

Other Items of Interest

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk