



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

City Council Chambers

October 30, 2018

12:00 PM

Change of Location

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Ibsen called the study session to order at 12:13 p.m.

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Mayor Woodards

Mayor Woodards arrived at 1:05 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [18-1282](#) Budget Presentation: Library; Non-Departmental; Revenue Update; and, Engagement Report Out

At approximately 12:14 p.m., Kate Larsen, Director, Tacoma Public Library, provided introductory remarks and presented the Library budget, including an overview of department programs, major accomplishments, outstanding challenges, funding, expenses, and department goals and major initiatives. She further described the “Libraries Transform Tacoma” model and focus on increasing access to the library, digital equity, and services.

Discussion ensued regarding library schedules, expanding services and branch hours, usage rates, lack of services for Hilltop and Eastside residents, feasibility studies, partnerships with area schools, improving services and public perception of the Downtown Tacoma branch, and improving processing times to make library materials available more quickly.

Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, provided a presentation on the 2019-2020 Non-Departmental budget, including a definition of the ‘non-departmental’ category; breakdown of General Fund items; expenses, including expenditure categories and employee salaries and benefits; and General Fund revenues, including revenue sources.

Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 1:05 p.m.

Ms. Johnston continued with a description of economic factors; General Fund revenue projections; major funds; taxes, fines, and fees; and a third quarter update on General Fund expenses and revenues, including projections for higher revenues and lower expenses than what was expected.

Discussion ensued regarding General Fund debt service; comparisons with Pierce County; the budget process; staffing, including budget, vacancies, and service levels; potential impact of the proposed 'lift assist' fee for emergency medical services; marijuana industry revenues; and decreased telecommunications revenues.

David Nash-Mendez, Budget Analyst, Finance, presented a report on engagement activities related to the 2019-2020 budget, including the strategy; priorities; surveys; and results, which showed high priority given to human services and transportation.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach results; transparency; and next steps, including additional presentations, public hearings, and scheduling the final ordinance for adoption.

The study session recessed at 1:51 p.m., and reconvened at 2:14 p.m.

2. [18-1283](#) Tideflats Interim Regulations Public Hearing Summary

At approximately 2:14 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided introductory remarks regarding the Tideflats interim regulations public hearing held on October 23, 2018. Steve Atkinson, Senior Planner, PDS, summarized the public hearing testimony and considerations related to expansion of existing uses, including metal recycling in the interim regulations, economic impacts, and impacts of interim regulations on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Mr. Atkinson concluded with a review of current land use designations and existing uses; amendment options, including options to apply interim regulations to existing uses through limiting expansion and/or requiring a conditional use permit (CUP); and the tentative schedule moving forward before interim regulations expire on December 2, 2018.

Discussion ensued regarding timelines, inclusion of South Tacoma Way on the area covered by interim regulations, outreach, expanded notification requirements, progress on the Tideflats Subarea Plan, environmental impacts and baseline environmental conditions, difference between State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and CUP processes, and possible

Council amendments related to non-industrial land and additional review for heavy industrial uses.

Shirley Schultz, Planner, PDS, described the difference between SEPA and CUP. Discussion continued regarding inclusion of and impacts on existing and new businesses; options to extend existing regulations as written versus adding new language at this time; notification and outreach efforts; discussion with partner agencies, including Port of Tacoma, Pierce County, and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians; public hearing comments; requirement to review the extension again in six months; whether the City has received any requests for new or expanded businesses; and options moving forward.

Other Items of Interest

3. [18-1294](#) Rainbow Center and Oasis Youth Center Letter

Mayor Woodards presented a letter from the Rainbow Center and Oasis Youth Center, which she plans to sign to add her support.

MOTION: Council Member Mello moved that the full City Council sign the letter in support of Tacoma's transgender and gender non-conforming community.

SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Ibsen.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Committee Reports

Mayor Woodards stated changes to the Council Standing Committee appointments will be presented for Council action, now that Council Member Thoms has returned.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [18-1284](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, October 25, 2018

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that tonight's agenda includes one proclamation, to proclaim Sunday, November 11, 2018 as United States Congressional Gold Medal for Filipino and American World War II Veterans Recognition Day. She further stated a substitute ordinance may be presented for Ordinance No. 28470 regarding Tideflats Interim Regulations, but no other changes are expected to the agenda at this time.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Ibsen moved to convene to a closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

The Council convened to Closed Session at 3:30 p.m.

The Closed Session was extended by 15 minutes at 3:45 p.m.

The closed session concluded and the study session reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk