



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**January 26, 2021**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:02 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:14 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [21-0085](#) Tacoma-Pierce County Health Board County Vaccination Plan Update

At approximately 12:02 p.m., Dr. Anthony Chen, Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, presented an update on the COVID-19 vaccination plan for the Tacoma-Pierce County area, including an agenda; disease trends in Pierce County; regional data from the Healthy Washington - Roadmap to Recover plan; vaccination eligibility during Phases 1A and 1B; the number of doses allocated and administered; and next steps, noting supply increases, providers, community vaccination clinics, and a vaccine supply projection.

Discussion ensued regarding timelines for the vaccination phases, vaccine supply and distribution, reopening schools for in-person learning, and vaccine eligibility for teachers.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:14 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding providing access to vaccines for the homeless community and other vulnerable populations, mass vaccination events, the Phase Finder tool at [findyourphasewa.org](http://findyourphasewa.org), and the status of Pierce County's temporary care facility.

2. [21-0086](#) Ammunition Tax Update

At approximately 12:31 p.m., Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, presented an update on the firearms and ammunition tax ordinances, including an agenda, overview of Substitute Ordinance No. 28624, adopted November 12, 2019, noting the original approval and implementation timeline; information provided to the City Council previously, noting impacts of the COVID-19 emergency; Ordinance No. 28677, adopted June 30, 2020; a newly proposed timeline; and next steps, noting funding sources and adoption of an amended ordinance.

Discussion ensued regarding the amended ordinance, timelines, the stakeholder group, priorities, the preferred process for developing and implementing policy, and appreciation for staff.

3. [21-0087](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 12:41 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, the systems transformation update table, the next steps timeline, and the draft transformation timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding information available on the Transforming Tacoma webpage at [cityoftacoma.org/transform](http://cityoftacoma.org/transform) and the Police and Use of Deadly Force in Tacoma webpage at [cityoftacoma.org/useofforcecases](http://cityoftacoma.org/useofforcecases).

**Other Items of Interest**

4. [21-0102](#) 2021 City Council Appointments

Mayor Woordards presented the 2021 City Council Appointments list, noting changes from 2020, and requested that Council Members contact her directly with questions or revisions.

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Discussion ensued regarding systems transformation; the use of force incident on January 23, 2021, in downtown Tacoma and protests that followed; effective, factual, and accessible communication; accountability; public outreach strategies; public perceptions and frustrations; staffing; expectations and responsibility related to public protests, unrest, and police activity; the Heal the Heart of Tacoma program; appreciation for Tacoma’s

community leaders; the Tacoma Police Department's work to maintain safety during protests; and shared goals related to transformation.

Council Member Walker stated that staff have drafted a joint statement from the Mayor and City Council regarding the incident in downtown Tacoma for review later this afternoon.

Discussion ensued about availability of the draft statement, the upcoming Committee of the Whole special meeting scheduled at 3:00 p.m., extending tonight's Virtual Forum to allow more people to speak, and options to provide time for review and discussion of the proposed joint statement after the conclusion of the Executive Session.

## **Executive Session - Potential Litigation**

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**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

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 1:44 p.m.  
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session was extended by 42 minutes at 2:18 p.m., and by 15 minutes at 3:03 p.m. and 3:20 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:37 p.m.

5. [21-0100](#) A statement from the Tacoma City Council on recent events at South 9th Street and Pacific Avenue.

Mayor Woodards presented a draft statement from the City Council on recent events at South 9th Street and Pacific Avenue, and requested it be considered as a walk-on item on tonight's regular meeting agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding proposed revisions to language on accountability, safety, and trust; and the method to add the item to the

City Council meeting agenda by motion.

Mayor Woodards noted that the Committee of the Whole special meeting was scheduled to begin at 3:00 p.m., but will be cancelled, and the planned implicit bias training will be rescheduled to a later date.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of implicit bias training and appreciation for staff, including Diane Powers, Director, Office of Equity and Human Rights.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

### 6. [21-0088](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, January 21, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated that three changes are expected to tonight's agenda, adding a ceremonial to proclaim February 1, 2021, through March 2, 2021, as Equity Challenge Days, and amending Ordinance Nos. 28729 and 28730 to correct effective dates. She further stated that the City Council will receive meeting agendas and presentations from a new agenda items email address, and reminded the City Council that Virtual Forum will be held after the regular meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding extending the length of Virtual Forum and reducing individual comments to one minute per person, with priority given to Tacoma residents.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk