



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

December 10, 2019

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

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

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 3 - Larkin, Patterson, and Watson

Absent: 2 - Cooley and Flint

Joint Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Ibsen moved to convene to a Joint Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

The City Council and Public Utility Board (PUB) convened to a joint Executive Session at 12:09 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Chief Deputy City Attorney Tom Morrill were present.

The joint Executive Session concluded, and the joint study session reconvened at 12:25 p.m.

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [19-1423](#) City-wide Draft Federal and State Legislative Agendas

At approximately 12:25 p.m., Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, made opening remarks and introduced Alisa O’Hanlon, Government Relations Coordinator, City Manager's Office, Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, and Marian Dacca, State Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU).

Ms. O’Hanlon presented the City-wide draft Federal and State Legislative Agenda, including the 2020 General Government Federal Agenda, noting affordable housing and homelessness, infrastructure, environment, human dignity and safety, and employer-provided health care coverage. Mr. Mather reviewed the TPU Federal Agenda, noting water, rail, and power. Ms. Gallagher outlined the General Government state priorities, noting the Northwest Immigrant and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Processing Center; affordable housing and homelessness; transportation; forthcoming requests; and the support/oppose/monitor list. Ms. Dacca presented the 2020 TPU State agenda, noting power, water, and rail. Ms. Gallagher concluded by reviewing the calendar and the government relations resolution.

Discussion ensued regarding the relationship between General Government and TPU, the Northwest ICE processing center, affordable housing numbers, and global changes to rentals protection code.

The joint study session was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

The regular study session convened at 1:29 p.m., after a brief recess.

City Council Briefing Items

2. [19-1372](#) Proposed Local Improvement District No. 7731 Appeal Hearing

At approximately 1:30 p.m., City Attorney Bill Fosbre requested that any Council Members who had ex parte communication with any parties involved in the hearing disclose that communication before the hearing.

Council Member Thoms stated he met with City staff regarding the appeal. Council Member Ibsen stated he had email communication with the applicants detailing the appeal process. They determined the communications would not cause a bias in their decision and there was no rebuttal from the appellant.

Deputy City Attorney Steve Victor made opening remarks on the appeal of the revised recommendation on request for reconsideration in formation of proposed Local Improvement District (LID) No. 7731.

Ralph Rodriguez, LID Manager, Public Works, explained the background of LID No. 7731.

Mr. Victor presented the Hearing Examiner's recommendation and introduced the appellant, Greg Duras.

Mr. Duras presented his appeal.

Discussion ensued regarding poles on the Duras property, power line placement, safety issues, the effects of the LID, the options of the appeal, how the assessments were calculated, savings in doing a joint project now versus doing the LID in the future, the scoping of the LID, and the reasoning behind the Hearing Examiner's recommendation.

MOTION: Council Member Ibsen moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(2), to discuss the quasi-judicial matter, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

The City Council convened to Closed Session at 2:12 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Closed Session concluded, and the study session reconvened at 2:18 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Ibsen moved to grant the appeal and remand the formation of LID No. 7731 to the City LID staff in the Public Works Department to determine the feasibility of adding the southeast boundary overhead lines as described in the Hearing Examiner’s revised recommendation on reconsideration to the scope of work for the proposed LID No. 7731 prior to bringing the issue of formation back to the Council for finalization.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Other Items of Interest

Mayor Woodards provided an update on meetings with mayors across Pierce County on the issue of housing affordability, including a potential coalition named South Sound Housing Affordability Partnership.

Committee Reports

Council Member Mello provided an update on the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Measure Policy Board adopting the Vision 2050, the update to the region’s growth plan.

Council Member Ibsen provided an update on the Pierce County Regional Council, and the Puyallup Tribe’s membership and voting status.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 3. [19-1424](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, December 5, 2019
 City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, December 10, 2019 as Student Government Day, and recognizing the Lincoln Abes High School football team. She further stated there are no known changes to the agenda.

* * * * *

Council Member Hunter stated she would like to see changes to and discussion of Ordinance No. 28648. Discussion ensued regarding moving the second reading of the ordinance to after the first of the year, questions sent to staff, and pro formas from developers.

Executive Session - City Manager's Mid-Year Performance Review

MOTION: Council Member Ibsen moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the City Manager's Performance Review, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:31 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The study session reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk