



# City of Tacoma City Council 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

**December 21, 2021**

**9:00 AM**

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## SPECIAL MEETING

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

Mayor Woodards stated that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the Traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.

### ROLL CALL

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

**Absent:** 1 - Beale

All Council Members participated virtually.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION - Pending and Potential Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending and potential litigation, not to exceed 45 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Blocker, Hunter, Hines, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Beale

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 9:08 a.m.  
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session was extended by 20 minutes at 9:50 a.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the special meeting reconvened, at 10:14 a.m.

## **POTENTIAL 30 MINUTE RECESS**

The special meeting recessed at 10:15 a.m.

The special meeting reconvened at 10:49 a.m.

## **BRIEFING ITEM**

1. [21-1276](#) Update on the Manuel Ellis Investigation.

At approximately 10:49 a.m., Mike Ake, Interim Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), provided an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including the decision that the two officers who were not charged with criminal offenses by the Washington State Attorney General's Office (AGO) have been exonerated of any policy violations, noting the TPD Internal Affairs investigation and consideration of Pierce County, Washington State Patrol (WSP), and AGO investigations; the specific policy violations reviewed; and the process to return the officers to work following several weeks of training.

Discussion ensued regarding the two officers who were not criminally charged by the AGO; interviews by the AGO and the TPD Internal Affairs process, noting whether TPD staff could decline the interviews; the specific policies that were reviewed; community conversations about current policies and suggestions for changes; the types of training the officers will receive, noting policy updates, transformation efforts, body worn cameras, dashboard cameras, legal updates, tactics, and other required training; methods to support the community, noting outreach to community leaders, reconciliation efforts starting in 2022, and healing circles to be organized by the Heal the Heart of Tacoma Core Coordinating Team; clarification of who had authority in this decision, noting that the City Council and Mayor are prohibited from interfering with the determinations; appreciation for staff; the City's investigation process, noting impacts on the WSP investigation; the ongoing AGO criminal prosecution process; and information that will be made available on the City website at [cityoftacoma.org/transform](http://cityoftacoma.org/transform) and on the TPD website.

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**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to excuse Council Member Beale from the special meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

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

**Ayes:** 7 - Blocker, Hunter, Hines, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Beale and McCarthy

**ADJOURNMENT**

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk