



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

October 03, 2017

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:09 p.m.

Present: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Walker
Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Ibsen

Council Member Ibsen arrived at 12:16 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [17-1005](#) State of Emergency on Homelessness and Interim Shelters Zoning Regulations

Mayor Strickland stated Ordinance No. 28430 declared an emergency for temporary aid and shelter for the homeless, and it will sunset on October 9, 2017. She stated proposed Ordinance No. 28457 is on tonight's agenda to amend the original ordinance and extend the emergency declaration to the end of the year. Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, provided additional background information on the emergency declaration and the creation of the Emergency Temporary Aid and Shelter Program. She then reviewed the three-phase approach and the purpose of each phase: mitigation, temporary transitional centers, and short-term transitional housing options. Ms. Pauli reviewed the revised plan that was brought forward based on experiences with the mitigation site and the first stabilization site, and the authorized budget of \$3.4 million, noting the City is on track to stay within the budget.

Council Member Ibsen arrived here, at 12:16 p.m.

Ms. Pauli then discussed five recommendations for moving forward, including key findings and statistics that support the recommendations: continue the stability site and enhanced enforcement operations through 2018, modify the operational model at stability site, expand stabilization capacity, establish a readiness site, and focus on ongoing regional collaboration for increased permanent supportive housing capacity.

Tadd Wille, Assistant City Manager, presented the anticipated cost for each recommendation, and concluded with the combined cost, estimated at \$5.9 to \$6.9 million. He stated over the next few months staff will work to identify possible sources of funding to include the General Fund, the Mental Health and Chemical Dependency Sales Tax, Community Development Block Grant funding, and Real Estate Excise Tax funding (REET 2), noting some of these have restrictions. He then discussed key studies related to homelessness and how investing to mitigate homelessness helps save in societal costs. Mr. Wille also presented direct spending on homelessness in 2016, estimated at \$1.78 million, and discussed what costs are not included. He then invited Zachary Kinneman, a member of the community advisory committee for the stability site, to speak about his experience with the site and homelessness. Ms. Pauli concluded by reviewing next steps, including extending the emergency declaration and unlawful camping ordinances, a public hearing and extending and modifying the ordinance for emergency temporary shelters interim regulations, and budget modifications.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding enforcement efforts; hiring police officers in addition to positions already approved in the biennial budget; statistics regarding individuals served and exit metrics; and housing stability, assessments, and needs. Discussion continued following the presentation regarding community outreach, the proposed time frame, faith-based and non-profit organization sheltering and interim regulation changes, and the stability site and daily meaningful work by those staying at the site.

Lauren Flemister, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services, presented on the interim regulations, including the work that happens during this time to plan for permanent regulations, the timeframe, and community outreach and education.

Discussion continued regarding siting, notice requirements, community outreach and support, the Pacific Lodge, and homeless populations that are not being served.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

Council Member Mello reported the Association of Washington Cities Board set its legislative agenda last Friday, and he encouraged including these items in Tacoma's legislative agenda and helping to advocate for them: advocating for more spots in the police academy, advocating for more positions to be funded through the state legislature, economic tools for retail, tools to alleviate long-term foreclosed and boarded up homes, and revenue sharing.

Council Member Ibsen reported at the upcoming Joint Municipal Action Committee (JMAC) meeting there will be a discussion on equity and empowerment, both within the City as well as within the greater Tacoma community, and how Tacoma staff may be able to discuss lessons learned and provide feedback to other JMAC agencies about how they may be able to carry out similar initiatives.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [17-0978](#) Weekly Report to the City Manager, September 28, 2017

Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, stated tonight there are four ceremonial presentations, proclaiming October 14, 2017 as Arbor Day and Green Tacoma Day, proclaiming October 2017 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, recognizing the Tacoma Refugee Choir, and hearing a performance from the choir. She stated there are no expected changes to the agenda.

Executive Session - Pending Litigation

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

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ibsen.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:16 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Deputy City Attorney Margaret Elofson were present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:31 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk