



# 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

**May 04, 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:** 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Hunter and Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:43 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [21-0434](#) Non-interim Tideflats and Industrial Land Use Debrief and Discussion of Public Comment and Testimony

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided opening remarks and introduced Jason Hennessey, Senior Associate, and Jay Shih, Associate, BERK Consulting; and Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney. Mr. Atkinson presented a debrief and discussion of public comment and testimony regarding the Non-Interim Tideflats and Industrial Land Use amendments, including a review of public hearing notification and participation; a summary of written and verbal comments received; a review of the recommendation topics; comparison of the Interim ordinance and the proposed Non-Interim ordinance and the types of comments received related to permit and land use notifications, conversion of industrial lands, residential encroachment, and siting of heavy industrial uses; and responses to questions from the April 27, 2021, study session related to fossil and renewable fuels and Conditional Use Permits (CUPs). Mr. Hennessey further reviewed energy consumption forecasts related to various fuel types and Washington State fossil fuel consumption trends. Mr. Atkinson concluded by reviewing the

difference between the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and CUP processes; options for the City Council to consider to adopt, amend, extend, or expire regulations; potential amendments, noting renewable fuels, chemical manufacturing, and other amendments; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding alignment with Washington State regulations, and proposed amendments related to consultation on permits.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:43 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding CUP and SEPA criteria, policies, and procedures; staff, Hearing Examiner, and City Council roles; equity and stability; the process to amend regulations; relationship between the proposed amendments and the Subarea Plan; goals for a green economy; definitions, including non-hazardous chemical manufacturing processes and high-impact uses; residential uses in M1 zones; the scope of the Planning Commission's review and recommendations; feedback from Port of Tacoma businesses; fossil fuel proposals, research, and bans in other cities; data related to alternative and renewable fuels, and the natural gas market; job growth; and a need for further discussion.

2. [21-0435](#) Historic Preservation Program and Activities Annual Update

At approximately 1:23 p.m., Rueben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer, PDS, provided opening remarks, introduced Lauren Hoogkamer, Historic Preservation Coordinator, PDS, and presented the annual update on the Historic Preservation Program and activities for 2020 and 2021, including an overview; summary of historic preservation initiatives and achievements; and Landmarks Commission activities. Ms. Hoogkamer reviewed program strategies; celebration of Historic Preservation Month in May 2021, noting the theme of "Mysterious Tacoma", planned activities and events, and information available at [www.HPMonthTacoma.com](http://www.HPMonthTacoma.com); and upcoming programs for 2021. Mr. McKnight concluded by reviewing program initiatives for 2021 and 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding historic review requirements related to permitting, historic designation standards, impacts to property owners and buyers, the McKinley and Lincoln history projects and information available at [www.historictacoma.org/mckinley](http://www.historictacoma.org/mckinley), and review by the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee.

3. [21-0436](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 1:51 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, noting the Workforce Equity study, the current state analysis of the Tacoma Police Department, the systems transformation update table, a next steps timeline, a long range transformation timeline, and information available online at [www.cityoftacoma.org/transform](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/transform).

Discussion ensued regarding the Workforce Equity Study and future discussions with the Heal the Heart Core Coordinating Team.

## Other Items of Interest

4. [21-0437](#) Council Consideration Request - Outdoor Dining

Council Member Thoms presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) for a resolution directing the City Manager to bring forward a recommendation to the Economic Development Committee to allow reasonable permanent outdoor dining options in addition to sidewalk cafes, including parklets, and streateries, to go into effect before the Curbside Café and Market pilot program expires; outlined the existing pilot program and Washington State regulations; and noted that Council Members McCarthy and Walker have signed on to support the CCR.

Discussion ensued regarding lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, benefits to businesses and pedestrians, and next steps for further study.

4a. [21-0442](#) Homelessness Update

Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, presented an update on the temporary mitigation and stabilization site, including an overview; focus on the location at South 69th Street and South Proctor Street; outreach with neighbors such as the South Tacoma Neighborhood Council and Habitat for Humanity, encampment residents, and the Coalition to End Homelessness; proposed site services, noting active access and management, basic services, and supportive services; a comparison of service options in various types of sites; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding laundry facilities, background checks, requirements related to drug and alcohol use, fencing and screening, storage resources, the proposal to set up the South 69th Street location using the

Temporary Emergency Micro-Shelters site model, options for other sites and models, communication with community partners, case management, reducing barriers to entry at other City-managed sites, timeline for the proposed site, and long-term planning.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [21-0438](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, April 29, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated that there are three ceremonials on tonight's agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, May 4, 2021, as International Firefighters' Day, proclaiming May 2021 as Asian and Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, and proclaiming May 2021 as Tacoma Historic Preservation Month; that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda; and requested that the Council Council submit their American Rescue Act funding proposals to staff by Friday, May 7, 2021.

## Executive Session - Review the Performance of a Public Employee

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 90 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

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

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

**Absent:** 1 - Hunter

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:55 p.m.  
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session was extended by 15 minutes at 4:30 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 4:42 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk