



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

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

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

June 15, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:04 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Beale, Blocker and Ushka

Council Member Blocker arrived at 12:05 p.m.

Council Member Ushka arrived at 1:10 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0591](#) Home in Tacoma Planning Commission's Recommendations Review

Council Member Blocker arrived here, at 12:05 p.m.

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office, provided opening remarks on the Planning Commission's recommendations for the Home in Tacoma Project; and introduced Anna Petersen, Chair, and Andrew Strobel, Member, Planning Commission. He further presented the City Council schedule; an overview of the Home in Tacoma Project, noting the project goal and Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS) objectives; and actions to support lower income households. Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS), reviewed Phase 1 of the project, noting vision and policy goals; and Phase 2, noting implementation of zoning changes, design standards, and actions to support housing growth. Elliott Barnett, Senior Planner, PDS, reviewed the Home in Tacoma Project package elements, noting the Housing Action Plan, near-term Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) changes, Comprehensive Plan policy changes, the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) determination, and the Planning Commission findings

report; an overview of engagement to date, noting AHAS and Home in Tacoma Project outreach efforts, and themes from the feedback received; how City Council and community input shifted the final recommendations; a review of low-scale and mid-scale housing options; the two scenarios the Planning Commission reviewed, referred to as Evolve Housing Choices and Transform Housing Choices; the recommended scenario; near-term TMC changes related to Accessory Dwelling Units, platting, parking, affordability bonuses for religious institutions and nonprofits, and affordability bonuses for development regulatory agreements; missing middle housing design principles; scale and design controls; issues for City Council consideration; and information available online at cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma. Ms. Petersen and Mr. Strobel provided additional background from the Planning Commission's perspective, noting the work done by volunteer Commissioners, the process and timeline, the City Council's direction, community engagement, and how the recommendation was developed.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for the Planning Commission, removal of the single-family housing zoning designation, the number and geographic distribution of recent residential infill projects, strategies to encourage density in underdeveloped areas, design standards and scale, concerns with how community feedback was handled, State-mandated changes related to affordability bonuses, and design review and approvals.

Council Member Ushka arrived here, at 1:10 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding possible impacts on the multi-family housing tax exemption program, examples of buildings allowed in each zone, the estimated speed of changes, incorporating feedback, the upcoming public hearing, further discussions, and next steps.

2. [21-0592](#) Annual Review of Sister Cities Program

At approximately 1:24 p.m., Debbie Bingham, Project Manager, Community and Economic Development, provided opening remarks and introduced Clare Petrich, Chair, Tacoma Sister Cities (TSC). Ms. Petrich presented an annual review of the Sister Cities program, including the program's history and vision; activities and members; information about Tacoma's various Sister Cities; a comparison of the 2019 and 2020-2021 incoming and outgoing delegations, funds dispersed, and projects; the program's receipt of Sister Cities International's Best Overall Program award and Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance award; funding sources and status of the City's contract; and partnerships, programs, and events during 2020-2021. Devin Williams, student, Tacoma School of the Arts, read aloud her poem entitled, "A Love Letter to Tacoma". Ms. Petrich concluded by

describing TSC programs for students, upcoming events, and a request for City Council support.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation to the TSC volunteers and activities, value of international partnerships and community events, City support and funding, partnerships with other agencies, recognizing students, an idea for a senior citizen exchange, the process to add a Sister City, and future projects.

3. [21-0593](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 2:10 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented an update on systems transformation, including new items, noting the Workforce Equity Study, the PEACE and Reconciliation project, body-worn cameras, and dashboard cameras; an upcoming update from the Heal the Heart Core Coordinating Team at the June 22, 2021, study session; Human Resources Director recruitment; status of the studies on divertible calls and alternate responses; 21st Century Policing Solutions' current state analysis of the Tacoma Police Department (TPD); creation of a Deputy Chief of Police job classification; Police Chief recruitment status; the systems transformation update table; and short- and long-range transformation timelines.

Other Items of Interest

4. [21-0594](#) Amendment to Ordinance No. 28769, regarding the Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program

Council Member Thoms presented a proposed motion for tonight's meeting agenda, amending Ordinance No. 28769, to add two projects to the Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

5. [21-0595](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Fred Scruggs, Assistant Police Chief, TPD, presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, noting receipt of Pierce County Sheriff's Office records, requests for Pierce County Medical Examiner's records and Washington State Attorney General's Office records, and the ongoing process to review items.

Discussion ensued regarding the estimated timeline for the internal investigation, status of requests to other agencies, and the City's internal process and requirements.

6. [21-0596](#) Support of Tacoma Pride Festival

Council Member Walker provided information on the 2021 Tacoma Pride Festival, noting changes due to COVID-19; various events, including the City Council's LGBTQIA+ Pride Month proclamation at the June 29, 2021, meeting, raising of the Pride Flag at the Tacoma Dome on July 9, 2021, and various events around the City on July 11, 2021; information available online at tacomapride.org; and the City Council's contribution of a video for the event.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

7. [21-0597](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, June 10, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's agenda, proclaiming Saturday, June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Day; recognizing Denny Hunthausen, Agency Director, Catholic Community Services; and recognizing Tacoma's legislative delegation. She further stated that changes are expected to tonight's agenda, including a proposed Substitute Ordinance No. 28581, two proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 28769, related to the Six-Year Comprehensive TIP, and a proposed motion to continue Ordinance No. 28756, regarding camping on public property to a date to be determined.

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 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Beale

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:33 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:03 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk