



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

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

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

September 27, 2022

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, Hines and Ushka

Council Member Hines arrived at 12:15 p.m.

Council Member Blocker arrived at 12:20 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [22-1054](#) Federal Legislative Priorities

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office, presented the federal legislative priorities, including the agenda development timeline. Jen Covino, President, Simon and Company, Inc., presented an overview; a review of the 117th United States (U.S.) Congress, noting legislative accomplishments; the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), noting background, federal funding by sector, and funding provided to the U.S. Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Council Member Hines arrived here, at 12:15 p.m.

Covino continued by reviewing BIL funding provided to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration.

Council Member Blocker arrived here, at 12:20 p.m.

Covino continued by outlining the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act,

noting background and funding provided to the U.S. Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Education, as well as general policy provisions; the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act, noting background and funding provided to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, DOE, and the National Science Foundation; and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), noting background and funding provided to the U.S. EPA, Federal Highways Administration, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, DOE, Department of Commerce, and the Department of Agriculture, as well as finance and tax provisions. Covino concluded by presenting the City's federal legislative priorities; and staff recommendations, noting BIL and IRA implementation, the remainder of the 117th session, and looking forward to the 118th Congress in 2023-2025.

Discussion ensued regarding available funding types and timelines; identifying and prioritizing shovel-ready projects; public safety and policing, noting accountability, alternative response, new strategies, incentives for recruitment, mental health services, and hotline services; how Council Members can assist with outreach and lobbying; guaranteed income programs; transportation and pedestrian projects; how funding decisions are made; ensuring the City's grant applications are competitive; workforce development; how grant funds are reflected in the City's budget; drug task force and rehabilitation funding; domestic chip manufacturing; technology and innovation; and appreciation to staff and consultants for their work.

2. [22-1055](#) Homelessness Update and Strategy

At approximately 1:17 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Interim Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided opening remarks regarding the City's homelessness strategy, and introduced Caleb Carbone, Homeless Strategy Systems and Services Manager, NCS. She further presented an overview, noting staffing updates; inclement weather response; the pilot program for private property encampment abatement; public property encampment removals; shelter updates, noting the South 35th Street and Pacific Avenue site, The Brotherhood Rise Center, and safe parking; and an introduction of the homeless strategy. Carbone presented the City's homeless strategy, noting background; summary of measurements currently used, noting the point-in-time count, homeless management information system (HMIS), and the preferred 'by name' list; homelessness data, noting the total number of people experiencing homelessness, available shelter beds, and encampments; and the vision, mission, values, and goals for the strategy. He further outlined specific goals and their related objectives, including ensuring affordable housing is available and accessible to Tacoma residents; that everyone experiencing homelessness in Tacoma, or impacted by homelessness, can

access services and support; that the shelter system in Tacoma offers all people a safe and dignified experience; that Tacoma's homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to a continuum of tailored supports to prevent and end homelessness; and that Tacoma's homeless service system provides individuals and families with access to permanent, stable housing in order to end the cycle of homelessness. Griffith concluded by reviewing funding considerations, noting current and planned capacity, one-time funding, and unfunded need in future years; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding youth homelessness and foster care; impacts of homelessness on communities, noting seniors, and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; temporary versus permanent housing, noting shared housing, tiny homes, microshelters, and other options; mental health services; Pierce County's plan, noting collaboration, funding, adding services, and timelines; staffing; HMIS data and accuracy; people who do not interact with the City's systems and are not included in the data; the Tacoma Rescue Mission; increasing the number of permanent housing units; developing measures of success for each goal; the 'by name' list, noting accuracy and confidentiality; new shelters and services outside the City's jurisdiction; and appreciation for staff.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [22-1056](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 22, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming October 2022 as Tacoma Arts Month. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and reminding everyone that Virtual Forum will be held at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk