



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 3423 3126

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/84834233126 Passcode: 349099

October 17, 2023

5:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Walker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 2 - Daniels and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Daniels arrived at 5:02 p.m. and Mayor Woodards arrived at 5:03 p.m.

Mayor Woodards and Council Member Ushka participated virtually.

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Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 5:02 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Council Member Blocker 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.

The flag salute was led by Council Member Blocker.

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Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 5:03 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. [23-0998](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, September 20, 2023.
2. [23-1009](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board study session, September 27, 2023.
3. [23-1010](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board meeting, September 27, 2023.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

Deputy Mayor Walker stated that a motion will be considered to amend Resolution No. 41281, to replace the name "Diego Chance" with the name "Gladys Challeen" as an appointee on the Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries.

CONSENT AGENDA

RESOLUTIONS

4. [RES41280](#) A resolution setting Tuesday, October 24, 2023, upon completion of Regular Agenda Items, no earlier than 5:15 p.m., as the date for a public hearing by the City Council on the 2023 Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing grant application.
[Felicia Medlen, Housing Division Manager; Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 41280.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 41280. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. [23-1003](#) Proclaiming Thursday, October 19, 2023, as Community Conflict Resolution Day.

Deputy Mayor Walker proclaimed Thursday, October 19, 2023, as Community Conflict Resolution Day and presented the proclamation to Maralise Hood Quan, Executive Director, and Michael Transue, Board of Directors President, Center for Dialog and Resolution.

6. [23-1008](#) Recognizing the 10th Anniversary of the City's Customer Support Center and Tacoma FIRST 311.

Deputy Mayor Walker recognized the 10th Anniversary of the City's Customer Support Center and Tacoma FIRST 311 and presented the recognition to La'Toya Mason, Principal Customer Service Analyst, City Managers Office.

7. [23-1011](#) Presentation from the City Manager regarding Systems Transformation, including highlights from the Planning and Development Services Department and Public Works Department's racial equity action plans.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on systems transformation and introduced Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services (PDS). Huffman presented an overview of PDS's service delivery and engagement; how the workforce reflects the community, noting the racial and demographic diversity of PDS employees; next steps and challenges; and the 2023 planned action visual, noting the past, present, and future plans to continue equity in hiring efforts and pilot programs to meet and assist customers in their communities. Jeff Jenkins, Assistant Director, Public Works (PW), provided opening remarks and presented Public Works' racial equity action plan goals, noting workforce demographics reflecting the community it serves, equitable outreach and communications, and equitable service delivery and infrastructure investments. He continued by reviewing how the workforce reflects the community, noting the intent, specific tasks included, the racial and demographic diversity of employees as of second quarter of 2023 and trends from 2018 to 2023, progress made for the workforce demographic goal, the PW equity mission statement, and next steps. He continued by outlining equitable outreach and engagement, noting the intent, specific tasks included, and past examples; and equitable service delivery, noting the intent, specific tasks included, and progress made for this goal. Jenkins continued by outlining the 2023 planned action visual, noting the past, present, and future actions to diversify the job candidate pool and to take advantage of the SAP Now! project to completely revamp their asset management capabilities. City Manager Pauli concluded by presenting recent accomplishments, upcoming community engagements, and the transformation timeline and history.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment began at 5:46 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received no written comment for public comment.

No individuals addressed the City Council.

Public comment ended at 5:47 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

APPOINTMENTS

8. [RES41281](#) A resolution appointing individuals to the Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries.
[Kari L. Louie, Assistant Director; Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources]

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41281.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to amend Resolution No. 41281, on page 1, line 17, and page 3, line 3, to strike the name "Diego Chance" and insert the name "Gladys Challeen".

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The Resolution, as amended, was declared adopted.

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

RESOLUTIONS

9. [RES41282](#) A resolution creating a Charter Review Committee, consisting of 15 citizens (residents), to review the existing Charter of the City of Tacoma and make such recommendations to the City Council for charter amendments as the committee may deem necessary and proper to improve the manner of operation and efficiency in conducting the affairs of the City.
[Nicole Emery, City Clerk; Chris Bacha, Interim City Attorney]

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 41282.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hines.

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

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

10. [ORD28909](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for employees represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483, Tacoma Power Unit, and Professional and Technical Employees, Local 17.
[Kari L. Louie, Assistant Director; Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28909. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

There was no report.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Community Vitality and Safety Committee

Council Member Ushka, Chair of the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, reported at the September 14, 2023, meeting, the Committee conducted additional interviews for the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities and received a presentation on the Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder sales tax; and on September 28, 2023, the Committee received presentations on the Crystal Judson Family Justice Center and the use of health metrics to achieve health equity and environmental justice. She concluded by stating the next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on October 26, 2023, at 4:30 p.m., and will include presentations on a proposed amendments to Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 8.17 and the Rental Housing Code additional research work plan.

Economic Development Committee


Council Member Blocker, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, stated that the Committee has not met since the last report, and that there is one correction to last month's report, noting that on September 26, 2023, the Committee reviewed staff's recommendations regarding business license fees in 2025 and 2026 as outlined in Ordinance No. 28838, and the Ordinance added two new license tiers based on gross income and increased business license fees in 2023 and 2024. Council Member Blocker concluded by stating the October 10, 2023, was cancelled; and the next meeting will be held in a hybrid format on October 24, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., and will include a presentation on the 2023 Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Alliance feasibility study recommendations.


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Mayor Woodards and Council Members Rumbaugh and Ushka addressed the rise of antisemitic incidents during the Israel-Hamas conflict.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor


Nicole Emery, City Clerk