



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

May 25, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:03 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0517](#) Tacoma Town Center

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), introduced Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director, CED.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:03 p.m.

Ms. Walkowiak presented an update on the Tacoma Town Center project, including an overview; agenda; background from 2015 to present; issues; and proposed revisions related to ownership, buildout, phasing, financing, and schedule. Jennifer Hines, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works, reviewed proposed revisions related to risk mitigation, project benefits, action steps for the proposed contract amendment and title transfer, and the recommendation from staff.

Discussion ensued regarding rescission rights, the project timeline, building design and aesthetic value, the site plan, current market value of the property, property ownership, the City's authority and options,

communication with the development community, and a suggestion to postpone action on the related legislation, Resolution No. 40789, on tonight's City Council meeting agenda.

2. [21-0518](#) Equity in Contracting Ordinance Update

At approximately 12:48 p.m., Carol Wolfe, Division Manager, CED, provided introductory remarks and introduced Martha Lantz, Deputy City Attorney, and Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Patsy Best, Procurement and Payables Division Manager, Finance; and Shakisha Ross and Dierdre Patterson, Contract and Program Auditors, CED. Ms. Wolfe presented an update on proposed revisions to the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) related to Equity in Contracting (EIC), including an agenda, history of the EIC and TMC Chapter 1.07, EIC implementation in 2020, and the EIC program team. Ms. Lantz reviewed the proposed code revisions, noting clarifications and exception and waiver language. Ms. Wolfe further reviewed the establishment of an advisory committee, noting committee size and distribution of contractor positions; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding creation, recruitment, and proposed duties for the new advisory committee.

3. [21-0519](#) Continuous Improvement Program Overview

This item was not addressed.

Other Items of Interest

4. [21-0520](#) Council Consideration Request - Tacoma Reads 2021

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$10,000 of City Council Contingency Funds to support the 2021 Tacoma Reads Together events, noting this year's book selections and related programs.

5. [21-0521](#) Council Consideration Request - Commercial Shipping and Storage Containers

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request for a resolution requesting that the Planning Commission review the prohibition of shipping containers for accessory building or storage uses, and options to allow shipping containers to be adaptively reused for innovative housing solutions to address the housing shortage and affordability crisis in the City of Tacoma, and for recommendations related to zoning and design standards.

Discussion ensued regarding environmental and housing concerns, prohibited uses, relationship to the Home in Tacoma program, existing regulations and proposed prohibitions, providing information and example graphics to explain what approved uses might look like, options to refer review to a Standing Committee, the role of the Planning Commission, the review process, a request for periodic updates to the full City Council, and next steps.

6. [21-0522](#) Council Consideration Request - Safe Streets Fireworks Outreach at Alling Park

Council Member Hunter presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$1,500 of City Council Contingency Funds to support neighborhood outreach around Alling Park to address illegal use of fireworks by the Safe Streets Campaign.

Discussion ensued regarding a request for staff support for the community group to work with the Tacoma Fire Department.

7. [21-0523](#) Return to In Person Meetings

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided a review of options to return to in-person meetings, including questions from staff and the community; the approach for City employees returning to work, noting safety precautions and protocols, teleworking, and the phased approach to returning to in-person work; current options for returning to in-person City Council meetings, noting current City and State regulations, maximum occupancy in the Council Chambers, State requirements for in-person meetings, the different requirements for vaccinated and non-vaccinated attendees, the requirement to provide access for everyone who wants to attend, proof of vaccination, and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; the possibility of future changes to the State Emergency Proclamation and Open Public Meetings Act proclamation; and a summary of options.

Discussion ensued regarding policies for employees, timelines for City Council and public meeting support staff returning to in-person work, hybrid work and meeting options, meeting room capacity and access concerns, public comment considerations, benefits of in-person discussion during study sessions, concerns about medical requirements for public attendance, appropriate messaging related to safety and public health, inconsistent practices, informal communications, a suggestion for Council Members to work in their offices on Tuesdays, and examples from other agencies.

- 8. [21-0524](#) City of Tacoma Branding Refresh

This item was not addressed.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 9. [21-0526](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, May 20, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated tonight’s City Council Meeting agenda includes a systems transformation update, that Resolution No. 40789 will be postponed to the June 8, 2021, meeting; and that Virtual Forum will be held after tonight’s meeting.

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The study session recessed at 2:05 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 2:59 p.m.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and (1)(i)(ii) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Mike Smith, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; and Nicholas Brown, Partner, Pacifica Law Group, were present.

The Executive Session was extended by 45 minutes at 3:30 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 4:12 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk