



# City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

**June 20, 2017**

**12:00 PM**

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## Call to Order

The study session was called to order at 12:06 p.m.

**Present:** 6 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Thoms and Mayor Strickland

**Absent:** 3 - McCarthy, Mello and Walker Lee

Council Member Walker Lee arrived at 12:09 p.m.

## Briefing Items

### 1. [17-0613](#) Air Quality Permitting and Testing in the Tideflats Area

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Mike Slevin, Environmental Services Director, stated the City does not have jurisdiction on air quality and relies very heavily on the regional experts at the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. He introduced Craig Kenworthy, Executive Director, and Kathy Strange, Technical Analysis Manager, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, and noted there have been recent complaints about air quality in the tideflats area.

Council Member Walker Lee arrived here, at 12:09 p.m.

Mr. Kenworthy provided information on fine particle pollution (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and its negative health effects, noting levels in the Tacoma area previously violated federal health-based national ambient air quality standards but it is greatly improved as a result of targeted wood smoke programs. He then shared data showing improvement from 2001 through 2016, and discussed ways of measuring different pollutants, the focus on diesel particulate, air pollution in the tideflats compared to other areas in Tacoma and Seattle, sources of Benzene in Pierce County, Benzene trends over time, and odors and air quality. He stated people can learn more about air quality levels and historic information at [pscleanair.org](http://pscleanair.org) and shared current data, noting air quality in Tacoma is roughly on par with other urban areas and continues to improve, and air quality in the tideflats is similar to other areas of Tacoma.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding air quality and potential cancer risks, the amount of air pollution in the monitored South L Street and tideflats areas, risks from diesel particulate, the impact of fireworks on air quality, creation of and concerns regarding Benzene, expanding the monitored areas in Tacoma, data trends, sources and studies, and the benefits of converting public transportation fuel sources.

## Other Items of Interest

### 17-0632 City Council Consideration Request -Convening Charter Review Commission

Council Member Ibsen brought forward a Council Consideration Request to convene a Charter Review Commission in 2018. He stated earlier this year interested citizens highlighted some areas in the City Charter for cleanup and fine-tuning, including term limits and administrative functions of Tacoma Public Utilities as defined by the City Attorney. He stated research and consideration of issues in the City Charter should be approached in a balanced, moderate way with the benefit of legal staff to avoid unintended consequences and best capture the intent of policy makers and citizens. Discussion ensued regarding the request, funding, and process.

## Committee Reports

Council Member Lonergan provided information from the last ZooTrek Authority meeting, stating attendance is down a little at the zoo but up a little at Northwest Trek. He stated Dozer the walrus was brought in for a breeding visit and the new aquarium facility is well underway, and encouraged everyone to visit the zoo this year and continue to support it through the construction.

Council Member Ibsen stated at the Joint Municipal Action Committee meeting this month the topic was the interlocal plan between Metro Parks and Tacoma for the Ruston Way master plan. He discussed the Metro Parks method for outreach, noting it will begin soon.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

### 2. 17-0614 Weekly Report to the City Council, June 15, 2017

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no scheduled ceremonials for tonight's meeting and no anticipated changes to the agenda.

## **Executive Session - Pending Litigation**

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 15 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.**

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

**Ayes:** 7 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

**Absent:** 2 - McCarthy and Mello

Following the motion, the Executive Session was cancelled due to the availability of staff.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 1:29 p.m.

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Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk