



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

November 17, 2020

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:25 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1a. [20-0899](#) Guaranteed Income Pilot Project.

Mayor Woodards recused herself from the presentation and discussion to avoid the appearance of a potential conflict of interest, due to her membership in Mayors for a Guaranteed Income (MGI).

At approximately 12:05 p.m., Dona Ponepinto, President and CEO, United Way of Pierce County, provided information on a proposed guaranteed income pilot project in Tacoma, including background; partners who are working on the project; a definition of guaranteed income; the focus on asset-limited, income constrained, and employed families; data about how funds are used; COVID-19 impacts; a goal to identify private funding; startup funding available from MGI; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding upcoming legislation to accept startup funds; the public-private partnership; other cities working on similar programs; a request for more information; Council support of efforts to end poverty; scope of the pilot project; and potential funding sources.

Mayor Woodards rejoined the study session, and spoke about programs in other cities and the funds available from MGI.

1. [20-0855](#) Proposed Budget Updates 2021-2022

At approximately 12:20 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on the budget, including impacts of COVID-19, and introduced Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance, and Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance.

Ms. Johnston presented the 2021-2022 proposed budget updates, including historic impacts on the City's financial sustainability; and strategies to close the \$40 million budget gap, including one-time and ongoing impacts, and projection of a \$19 million budget gap in 2023-2024.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:25 p.m.

Mr. Cherullo reviewed factors leading to continued economic uncertainty, noting COVID-19 health emergencies, impacts of shutdowns, local employment, resetting the economy, and disparate impacts on women and low wage earners; and risk related to use of reserve funds.

The study session recessed at 12:45 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 12:55 p.m.

Ms. Johnston concluded by reviewing a summary of amendments based on City Council feedback, an option to revise the Tacoma Fire Department budget proposal for staggered Basic Life Support (BLS) implementation and adding one fire engine, and impacts on the projected budget gap in 2023-2024.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's reserve policy; economic conditions; looking for additional one-time and ongoing revenue sources, such as the fire cost recovery program through Washington State Senate Bill 6078; using reserve funds; staff reductions through layoffs and internal placements; frontline and essential staff versus non-essential staff; phasing in the BLS program; reviewing programs for additional reductions; public perceptions; budget enhancements; fire staff reductions versus service changes; reserve fund use in the previous recession; equity in financial and health services; high levels of uncertainty; other potential budget impacts; impact of fire equipment and staffing changes; and timing of potential budget amendments.

The study session recessed at 2:32 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 2:47 p.m.

At approximately 2:47 p.m., Tammy Liddle Lobban, Senior Management and Budget Analyst, Finance, reviewed budget development outreach efforts, including themes from feedback in late 2019 and summer 2020; results from the October 21, 2020, Town Hall event, noting poll responses on areas of concern, and topics of interest from comments, questions, and responses about engagement; public hearing topics of interest; and feedback and demographics from the Balancing Act tool.

2. [20-0856](#) Foss Waterway Development Authority Transition Update

At approximately 2:57 p.m., Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney; Jennifer Hines, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works; and Pat Beard, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development, presented the Foss Waterway Development Authority (FWDA) transition, including an overview, background, legal considerations, transfer of real estate assets, parcels to be transferred to Metro Parks Tacoma, updates on redevelopment, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding past budget allocations, expected revenues and expenses, loan forgiveness, cost to maintain FWDA properties, potential property sales and development, staffing, and future opportunities.

3. [20-0857](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 3:14 p.m., City Manager Pauli provided an update on systems transformation, including new items, a reminder that feedback on the current state analysis of the Tacoma Police Department may be sent by email to voicesoftacoma@21cpsolutions.com, opportunities for community involvement in the Chief of Police recruitment process, the systems transformation update table, next steps timeline, and the draft transformation timeline.

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

4. [20-0858](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 12, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated this evening's meeting agenda includes one ceremonial, proclaiming November 16-22, 2020, as National Drone Safety Awareness Week, and several amendments to the budget are proposed.

Council Member Ushka stated she plans to bring forward an amendment to Ordinance No. 28701, to amend 2.02.015 to include the text "with input from the Tacoma Permit Advisory Task Force", to address concerns about administrative authority over projects.

Discussion ensued regarding sponsors on the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 28701, the proposed budget amendments, and which amendments are expected to be brought forward at tonight's and next week's meetings.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk