



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 13, 2022

12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

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

Mayor Woodards participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [22-0995](#) Tideflats Update

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services, presented an update on the Tideflats Subarea Plan, including an agenda and purpose; and the proposed resolution confirming the future development scenarios to be studied in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He further reviewed the Tideflats Steering Committee's (Steering Committee) recommendation from March 24, 2022, including categories of guiding principles; the range of alternatives; details on each alternative, noting the main versus transition area, growth targets, restoration, public access, climate adaptation, and transportation; the planning process and milestones; the scoping notice and engagement activities; comments received, noting themes and characterization of comments; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff and Steering Committee members, the process so far, the Steering Committee's recommendation, support for moving all the alternatives through the EIS process, urgency, the plan for a new light rail station on Portland Avenue, transit-oriented manufacturing, encouraging housing near high-capacity transit, and the upcoming public hearing.

2. [22-1002](#) Camping Ordinance

At approximately 12:33 p.m., Council Member Hines presented a proposed ordinance to establish a 10-block buffer around temporary shelters where camping or storing personal belongings on public property is prohibited, including the City's temporary shelters, mitigation sites, and authorized temporary shelters operated by community partners. He outlined the legislation's focus on encampments; enforcement, noting a misdemeanor offense; the purpose of the legislation, including addressing community concerns; building on success at existing and future shelter locations; adding temporary shelters while not allowing camping nearby; and encouraging neighborhoods to host temporary shelters by providing assurances that they will not face undue burdens or impacts. He further reviewed timing, noting that additional shelter beds will be available soon at the City's mitigation site at South 35th Street and Pacific Avenue and community partner locations; and stated that no changes will be made to the City's administrative process, although it will help reduce the time it takes for the City to address illegal encampments. Council Member Hines concluded by describing outreach and notifications; activities that would still be allowed near shelters; the importance of continued action, additional partners, and funding to address homelessness; and the opportunity to take action now, while continuing to work on a long-term solution.

Discussion ensued regarding efforts to address homelessness and public safety; limited resources, noting staff, shelter beds, funds, and setting realistic expectations; ensuring timely responses to safety concerns; prioritizing enforcement; equity; measures of success; limiting police engagement in homeless encampments; the need for more low-barrier sites; focusing on the most vulnerable people and those who are willing to accept services; keeping communities safe; community partnerships; rapid rehousing; the challenge of identifying new shelter sites; capacity for Tacoma Police Department (TPD) and Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) staff to track and enforce the new regulations; timing for NCS to complete the strategic plan to address homelessness; authorizing use of force; unintended consequences, noting pushing encampments to other locations, interrupting access to services, and lost property; the need for a mental health court; overlap with other enforcement efforts or the TPD Violent Crime Reduction Plan; and a possible amendment to add the Puyallup River and other waterways to the buffer area.

Other Items of Interest

- 3. [22-1003](#) Council Consideration Request - UWT Celebrando Comunidad 2022 - Latinx Celebration and Awards

Council Member Diaz presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$5,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support the second annual University of Washington Tacoma (UWT) Celebrando Comunidad: Latinx Celebration and Awards, noting awards, the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs' request for City support of the event, and the proposal to provide funding outside the new competitive process for receiving funding for community events. She concluded by inviting everyone to attend the event on October 14, 2022.

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Council Member Blocker presented information on Resolution No. 41025, regarding consent to delay the transfer of the Carlton Center Building located at 1551 Broadway to the UWT, on tonight’s meeting agenda. He provided background, noting that the building was purchased from the City by Fred Roberson in 2004, with the original intent to transfer the building to UWT on his passing, and that the estate has requested that the building be placed in a trust until his wife’s passing; and stated that UWT has already consented to the requested delay.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 4. [22-1006](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 8, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are four ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda, proclaiming September 9-18, 2022, as Welcoming Week; proclaiming September 15-October 15, 2022, as Hispanic Heritage Month; a Compassionate Tacoma recognition for Natia Manaea; and a presentation on systems transformation, including highlights from the Tacoma Fire Department’s racial equity action plan. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected, and that tonight's meeting includes Community Forum and a public hearing on the Tidefaults Subarea Plan and EIS scoping.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk