



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

January 31, 2017

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:06 p.m.

Present: 6 - Blocker, Campbell, Lonergan, Mello, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 3 - Ibsen, McCarthy and Thoms

Briefing Items

2. [17-0110](#) Amtrak Station Update

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Ian Munce, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks and introduced Donald Erickson, Tacoma Amtrak Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Erickson presented an update on the Freighthouse Square Amtrak Station Design and Construction, including station relocation, station design, historic interpretive displays, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the project, and the historic interpretive displays.

1. [17-0109](#) Point Defiance Bypass Train Track and Signal Testing Update

At approximately 12:17 p.m., Kurtis Kingsolver, Public Works Director, provided opening remarks and introduced Janet Matkin, Washington State Department of Transportation. Ms. Matkin provided an overview of Tacoma Point Defiance bypass track and signal testing, including background information on the project, current schedule, testing phases, safety measures, synchronized signals, trains on the new bypass, outreach, and safety messaging.

Discussion ensued regarding the use of wayside horns versus train horns, the configuration of tracks and platforms, pedestrian safety, effective ways to notify pedestrians of approaching trains, and the expected speed of trains when travelling through the City.

3. [17-0111](#) Legislative Updates

At approximately 12:42 p.m., Randall Lewis, Government Relations Officer, presented legislative updates related to the status of City bills of interest, including House Bill (HB) 1495, which provides a local tax incentive for commercial office space; HB 1114, which restores a leasehold tax exemption for the Tacoma Dome; HB 1570 and Senate Bill (SB) 5254, which creates a permanent document recording fee surcharge, and increases the fee to \$90; a proposed bill coming forward to address abandoned homes; HB 1298, requiring statewide implementation of ban-the-box; SB 5530, which preempts local minimum wage and sick leave outside of King County; SB 5116, which allows Tacoma, Seattle, and Spokane to voluntarily elect the Washington State Investment Board to manage municipal pension investments; SB 5215 and HB 1681, which provides for a 1/10th sales tax credit for Pierce County annexations with populations over 1,500; and HB 1594 and HB 1595, related to amendments to the Public Records Act. Mr. Lewis concluded by discussing upcoming dates.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the 1/10th sales tax credit, annexations, and the repeal of I-200.

Other Items of Interest

Mayor Strickland provided information relative to the search for the City of Tacoma's next City Manager, stating that the City Manager Performance Review Committee has chosen Colin Baenziger & Associates to conduct the executive search to replace former City Manager T.C. Broadnax.

Discussion ensued regarding the search process.

[17-0124](#) Council Consideration Request - Eastside Food Innovation District

Council Member Campbell presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) relative to a study of the feasibility and implementation of a Food Innovation District for the Eastside.

Discussion ensued regarding potential partnerships.

[17-0123](#) Council Consideration Request - Creation of an Immigrant and Refugee Task Force

Council Members Campbell and Walker Lee presented a CCR relative to the creation of an Immigrant and Refugee Task Force.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the CCR, advocates as potential task force members, defining Sanctuary City, and communicating what the City is already doing to protect immigrant and refugee populations.

Committee Reports

Council Member Campbell provided information related to vacancies on local and regional committees, boards, and commissions.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [17-0112](#) Weekly Report to the City Manager, January 26, 2017

Mark Lauzier, Acting City Manager, stated there are two proclamations on tonight's agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, January 31, 2017 as Human Trafficking Awareness Day, and proclaiming January 2017 as Whole Child Month. He stated there is one expected change, the addition of Resolution No. 39642, directing the City Manager to establish a convening of immigrants and refugees, and their advocates, and support them in creating an Immigrant and Refugee Task Force.

Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Mello moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.

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

Ayes: 6 - Blocker, Campbell, Lonergan, Mello, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 3 - Ibsen, McCarthy and Thoms

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 1:40 p.m. City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli, Chief Deputy City Attorney Bill Fosbre, and Deputy City Attorney Jean Homan were present.

The Executive Session was extended by five minutes at 1:50 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 1:55 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk