



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

October 29, 2019

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor McCarthy called the study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

Present: 6 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 3 - Ibsen, Mello and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Mello arrived at 12:20 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [19-1175](#) Department of Ecology's Tacoma Smelter Plume Update

At approximately 12:08 p.m., Ian Munce, Special Assistant to the Director, Planning and Development Services, made opening remarks and introduced Marian Abbett, Site Manager, and Amy Hargrove, Tacoma Smelter Plume Remediation Manager, Washington Department of Ecology. Ms. Abbett presented ways people can be exposed, healthy actions, and the smelter plume project. Ms. Hargrove presented the yard program service area, arsenic sampling results breakdown, the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department outreach and education, working with residents to cover bare patches of soil, soil replacement 2019-2020, soil replacement sequence, soil replacement progress, the Dirt Alert map, the Environmental Protection Agency survey to residents, Dune Peninsula, and the technical assistance program.

Council Member Mello arrived here, at 12:20 p.m.

Ms. Abbett concluded by reviewing next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding remediation in public lands, educating property owners, underground storage tanks, groundwater protection, and the free site sampling program.

2. [19-1176](#) Ensuring Safe, Clean and Sanitary Downtown

At approximately 12:37 p.m., Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, made opening remarks and introduced Lewis Griffith, Division Manager, and Andy Torres, Assistant Division Manager, Solid Waste Management. Mr. Lewis presented an overview of the safe and clean opportunities and Business Improvement Area (BIA) concerns. Mr. Torres presented the proposed test area, public litter can proposal, the centralized collection system, compactor upgrades, cost for the centralized collection system, daily garbage collection, evening garbage collection, stakeholder feedback, and next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding garbage receptacle placement logistics, how the program costs are going to affect consumers, ways to deal with illegal dumping in the City, maintenance of the public litter cans, syringes and other dangerous waste, and working with local businesses to promote cleanliness.

At approximately 1:19 p.m., Mr. Wille made opening remarks on downtown safety, and introduced Shawn Gustason, Assistant Chief, Tacoma Police Department. Mr. Gustason presented downtown enforcement, downtown community, and areas of focus for the 2020 pilot project.

Discussion ensued regarding police bike patrols in the downtown BIA, statistics of vehicle break-ins, responding to individuals committing crimes with no criminal intent due to mental illness, and downtown growth.

Other Items of Interest

3. [19-1214](#) Proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 28624

Council Member Blocker presented an amendment to Ordinance No. 28624, to look at the funds generated by the gun tax, how it affects smaller businesses that sell guns and ammunition, and the effectiveness of the gun tax on gun safety.

4. [19-1217](#) Proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 28623

Council Member Thoms presented an amendment to Ordinance No. 28623, to put in language to review the recycling rate surcharges if, and when, the market changes enable lowering the rates.

Discussion ensued regarding a date for re-evaluation.

5. [19-1218](#) Council Consideration Request - 6th Avenue Santa Parade

Council Member Hunter presented a Council Consideration Request for \$5,000 for the 6th Avenue Santa Parade.

Discussion ensued regarding various events, traffic control, and barriers.

Committee Reports

Council Member Mello stated that the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency met and discussed a presentation and tool kit on dealing with wildfire smoke, air quality, public health, and the Wood Stove Program.

He further stated that the Flood Control Zone District Advisory Committee approved the proposed operating and capital budget.

He concluded by stating that the Puget Sound Regional Council is continuing work with Pierce County on amendments regarding the Vision update, related to displacement, affordable housing, and congestion.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [19-1177](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, October 24, 2019

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that tonight's agenda includes one ceremonial, proclaiming October 2019 as Safe Infant Sleep Awareness Month. She further stated there are three possible changes to tonight's agenda, including the change to the definition of "gun" for Ordinance No. 28624, the direction to look at fund generation and use for Ordinance No. 28624, and the change to the language of Ordinance No. 28623.

Council Member Mello stated that the Mayor intended to announce at tonight's meeting an amendment that would tax a gun sale only once, at the point of retail, and would not include parts.

Discussion ensued regarding potentially continuing Ordinance No. 28624, gun manufacturing businesses in Tacoma, creating a buy-back program, taxing gun parts, and the definition of gun parts.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk