



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

December 04, 2018

12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Present: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Ibsen and Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:14 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [18-1442](#) Neighborhood Council Program Review

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), provided opening remarks and introduced Carol Wolfe, Supervisor, CED. Ms. Wolfe provided an overview of the Neighborhood Council Program; outreach, including updates, reports, surveys, and direct feedback from groups; and issues, including concerns regarding consistency and proposed revisions to the program.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:14 p.m.

Ms. Wolfe continued by describing issues related to volunteer board member expectations, neighborhood boundaries, officer transitions, attendance, and leadership; proposed revisions to Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 1.45 to impact equity, inclusion, capacity building, and consistency; proposed revisions to the Standards and Guidelines document; proposed non-legislative program enhancements; and next steps and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach to include agencies in work session discussions; language related to residential and commercial renters as well as owners; Council participation in community work group sessions; communications tools; boundary review; board member recruitment and criteria; feedback on proposed language for Board officer term limits; council area size, boundaries, and options for sub-groups; primary function of

the Neighborhood Councils; representation for southeast Tacoma; the City's role in streamlining and helping with outreach; helping councils with meeting length and attendee inclusion; delaying boundary review to coincide with the City Council's ten-year district boundary review in 2020; mandated versus suggested by-laws language; differences between the various councils; role of the proposed work group; inclusivity; equity training for board members; and next steps.

2. [18-1443](#) Proposed State and Federal Legislative Agendas

At approximately 12:49 p.m., Randy Lewis, Director, Government Relations Office (GRO), provided introductory remarks and introduced Alisa O'Hanlon, Government Relations Analyst, GRO, and Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Officer for Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU).

Mr. Mather explained the function of the legislative agendas and their relationship to the recently-approved Legislative Policy Statement (Resolution No. 40137). He further reviewed proposed state-level legislative agenda items related to fiscal issues, neighborhoods, and transportation items. Ms. O'Hanlon reviewed federal legislative agenda items related to affordable housing, economic development and infrastructure, human dignity and safety, opportunities for youth, and the environment. Mr. Mather concluded by describing the effort to collaborate on a joint legislative agenda across the general government and TPU, state and federal legislative agenda items related to TPU activities, and next steps and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding funding priorities for specific projects; support for the Tacoma Housing Authority; relationships for Department of Justice funding; support for continued and increased block grant funding; funding for the new housing trust fund; real estate excise tax (REET) proposals; the City's capital projects list and priorities; prioritizing a youth shelter; housing issues and rights; Council and citizen participation in State Legislature discussions; solar incentives; alignment with Tacoma School District priorities; status of a property tax item on the legislative agenda; and seismic retrofit funding.

Other Items of Interest

3. [18-1444](#) Council Consideration Request - Funding to Support 2019 Tacoma Roots' Summit Events

Mayor Woodards stated that she, Council Member Blocker, and Council Member Mello are requesting \$5,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to support the 2019 Tacoma Roots Summit. Council Member Mello described the focus of the Roots Summit.

4. [18-1445](#) Council Consideration Request - Funding to Support the Pierce County 2020 Census Complete Count Committee

Mayor Woodards stated she is requesting \$25,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to support the Pierce County Complete Count committee and to ensure a thorough and accurate 2020 Census in the City of Tacoma.

5. [18-1446](#) Council Consideration Request - Funding for *PurpleAir* Air Sensors Pilot Project

Council Member McCarthy explained the request for air sensors; discussions with the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA); how the air sensors function; availability of sensor data to the public via the PurpleAir website; estimated staff costs; and scope of the proposed pilot project.

Discussion ensued regarding intended use of data; ongoing costs and expectations; the recommended number of sensors; PSCAA's ongoing pilot project; general improvement of Tacoma's air quality to date; alternatives to purchasing sensors, such as using data from existing PSCAA and privately owned sensors or helping fund PSCAA's pilot; residents' expectations, concerns, and feedback; roles and partnerships between agencies such as the City, PSCAA, and Health Department; investment in ongoing interpretation and education; specific concerns from residents about air quality; use of City facilities for sensor placement; and next steps.

6. [18-1461](#) Options for 2019 Cancelled Council Meetings

Mayor Woodards stated a list of possible meeting cancellations has been prepared, that the Council rules allow cancellation of up to six meetings during the calendar year, and that a resolution would come to the December 18, 2018 City Council meeting.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

7. [18-1447](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, November 29, 2018

City Manager Pauli stated the agenda this evening includes a proclamation proclaiming December 4, 2018 as Student Government Day, a presentation of the AWC City Champion Award to Senator Jeannie Darnielle, and a presentation from the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs; and that no changes are expected on the agenda.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Council Member Mello moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Ushka, and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ibsen

The Council convened to Closed Session at 2:25 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Chief Deputy City Attorney Tom Morrill were present.

The Closed Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:55 p.m.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Mello moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Ushka, and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ibsen

The Council convened to Executive Session at 3:00 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Chief Deputy City Attorney Tom Morrill were present.

The Executive Session was extended by 10 minutes at 3:30 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:40 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk