



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

October 10, 2023

1:15 PM

SPECIAL MEETING - CHANGE OF TIME

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session special meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, Rumbaugh and Ushka

Briefing Items

1. [23-0995](#) Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

At approximately 1:17 p.m., Mike Griffus, CEO, Pierce Transit, provided an update on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), including factors that led to the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioner's decision on BRT, noting the economic impact, transit lanes, Federal Transit Administration policy changes, lack of investment, planned improvements, and recommendation for Enhanced Bus service as interim solution; three major BRT funding risks; plans in the original BRT 1 area; opportunities to coordinate planning efforts; the Enhanced Bus plan, noting the targeted launch in March 2024; and route map; speed and reliability elements; and benefits of pivoting to Enhanced Bus. Alexandra Mathers, Government Relations Administrator, Pierce Transit, continued with the next steps, Enhanced Bus expansion, Runner service information, and how Pierce Transit is meeting transit needs.

Discussion ensued regarding the difficult decision to move towards an Enhanced Bus plan, noting economic efficiency and delivering quality service; service frequency; regular Pierce Transit stops, noting difference in the stops, bus design, and signage; replacement and new design of bus shelters; trash receptacles, noting Pierce Transit staff that clean the bus shelters and partnership with Environmental Services; east to west connections; bus route specifics; outreach plan development; excitement for the Runner service; speed

and reliability elements; timelines for BRT 1, 2, and 3; funding; and lessons learned, noting policies around transit, engagement with partners, and updating the City's Transportation Master Plan.

2. [23-0996](#) City Charter Review Process and Timeline

At approximately 2:00 p.m., Nicole Emery, City Clerk, provided opening remarks and introduced Chris Bacha, Interim City Attorney. She then presented the 2024 Charter Review process, including background, noting how items can be submitted for review and history of the last three Charter Reviews; and timeline. Bacha continued with the City Council's discretionary actions, including constitution of the Charter Review Committee (CRC), specialized knowledge or background of CRC Members, and topics in the Committee's scope of review.

Discussion ensued regarding number of meetings; number of amendments in past years, noting how many passed; make-up of the CRC, noting diversity in demographics, jurisdiction, district representation, residency requirement, income, age, and professional background; payment or stipend; youth position and labor relations position; establishment of templates and formalized process, noting establishing clear roles and responsibilities for the CRC; submittal of topics; number of sub-committees; budget, noting City staffing; incentives, noting providing food; interview process, noting the desire for a full City Council decision and potential scoring of applicants; educational diversity; intimidation factor of interviewing in front of a full City Council; individuals who have served on past CRCs; public hearings and town hall meetings; length of residency, noting a commitment to the future of Tacoma; application questions; requirements for resolution and application, noting legal analysis; and next steps.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [23-0997](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 5, 2023

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming October 2023 as Adopt a Shelter Dog Month, proclaiming Saturday, October 14, 2023, as Arbor Day and Green Tacoma Day; and Compassionate Tacoma recognizing Eric Lahti and the Boy Scouts of America Troop 507. She concluded that no changes are expected, and that tonight's meeting includes community forum.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to convene to a closed session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Bushnell.

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

Ayes: 6 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Blocker, Rumbaugh and Ushka

Adjournment

The closed session was held after adjournment of the study session.

On proper motion, the study session special meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk