



# 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](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**September 10, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

---

### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

### Briefing Items

1. [24-0968](#)

General Fund 2024-2026 Financial Outlook

[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 12:01 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided an overview of the 2024-2025 General Fund (GF) financial outlook, expressed appreciation for staff, and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget. Johnston presented budget updates, including an overview; revenue and expense updates through July 2024; and a comparison of GF financial forecasts from June and August 2024, noting the baseline structural gap and updated expense projections. She continued by outlining the process and options to produce a balanced budget, including fines, exemptions, and audits; utility tax exemptions; parking; and event-related excise tax. Johnston concluded with review of the City's revenue strategy, noting items and timelines in the proposed budget, possible impacts, and items that are in-progress; and next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding excise taxes, impact fees, revenue assumptions, COVID-19 pandemic funding, fire levy funds, utility tax exemptions, purpose of the Tacoma Power gross earnings tax revenue update, history of the structural funding gap, options to require review or automatically increase fees based on inflation, grant funding, appreciation for staff, level of service, impacts of the GF shortfall, local sales and business tax revenues, impacts to the community, timelines for budget adjustments in 2025-2026, and next steps for the budget and other legislative actions.

## Other Items of Interest

2. [24-0969](#) Letter Addressing Northwest Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing Center  
[Council Member Walker]

Council Member Walker presented a letter requesting assistance from United States Representative Derek Kilmer with ensuring the incoming Representative for Washington's 6th District is informed about the City Council's concerns regarding the Northwest Immigration and Customs Enforcement Processing Center (NWIPC), including poor standard of living, food and water insecurity, insufficient health care, excessive use of solitary confinement, use of force and sexual assault, lack of access to communication, and inadequate legal representation. She concluded by stating Tacoma has limited authority to intervene because NWIPC is privately owned, and the City depends on state and federal involvement to ensure that this facility complies with national standards to keep detainees safe and healthy; and the proposed letter will appear on tonight's Council meeting agenda for consideration.

Discussion ensued regarding raising public awareness of egregious issues at NWIPC, next steps to work with the new Representative in 2025, appreciation for the proposed letter, and providing copies of the letter to the full federal delegation.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [24-0970](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 5, 2024  
[Melanie Harding, Interim Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office]

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming September 13-22, 2024, as Welcoming Week; proclaiming September 15-October 15, 2024, as Hispanic Heritage Month; and proclaiming September 2024 as Emergency Preparedness Month. She stated no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and tonight's meeting includes community forum. She concluded by reviewing the third quarter update on homelessness provided in the Weekly Report, noting rates of calls, contacts, and requests for service; one arrest was made under Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 8.19; and the competitive funding recommendation process for 2025-2026, noting a presentation will be made to the Community Vitality and Safety Committee at an upcoming meeting.

## **Executive Session - Pending Litigation & Review the Performance of a Public Employee**

**MOTION:** Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.31.110(1)(i) and 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss pending litigation and to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 60 minutes.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Walker.

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

**Ayes:** 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 1:16 p.m. Chief Deputy City Attorney Steve Victor and Deputy City Attorney Debra Casparian were present.

The executive session was extended by 40 minutes at 2:19 p.m., and by 15 minutes at 2:56 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:15 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_

for Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Nicole Emery, City Clerk