



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

326 E D Street, Tacoma, WA 98421

February 21, 2014

9:00 AM

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Strickland called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

REGULAR AGENDA

Opening Comments from Mayor Strickland

Mayor Strickland provided opening remarks on the purpose of today's work session. She discussed the strategic policy objectives set at last year's Council work session; then discussed the sequence of events occurring this year, including: today's work session, her State of the City address on March 19, 2014, then budgeting for 2015-2016. She then briefly discussed the long-term visioning effort which begins in March.

Today's work session facilitator, Mary Morrison, Human Resources Department, then introduced herself and reviewed today's agenda.

Council Members participated in an icebreaker exercise here.

14-0147

2013 Review - Significant Events in 2013.

Ms. Morrison asked the Mayor and each Council Member to identify big events of their personal and professional lives in 2013 that stood out to them. Council Members each shared their events and those events were scribed onto a large easel pad.

The Council recessed at 9:50 a.m. and reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

14-0148 2013 Review - City Accomplishments in 2013.

City Manager T.C. Broadnax reviewed 2013 accomplishments stemming from the 2013 work session.

City Manager T.C. Broadnax reviewed 2013 accomplishments under the Council's strategic direction to strengthen and maintain a strong fiscal management position, including: monthly and quarterly financial reports, economic dashboards, online reporting systems, and benchmarking; the Council-approved General Fund Budget Reserves Policy, the jail services contract with the City of Fife, the Department of Justice cold case grant, and the U.S. Department of Security Port grant.

He reviewed 2013 accomplishments under the Council's strategic direction to strengthen and support human services, public education, and diverse higher learning opportunities in Tacoma, including: the South East Tacoma Community Center feasibility study, the Summer Youth Employment Program, the mental health competitive funding process with online application support, and gang involvement reduction plan implementation.

He reviewed 2013 accomplishments under the Council's strategic direction to foster neighborhood, community, and economic development vitality and sustainability, including: the economic development framework and action plan, the Prairie Line Trail property donation from Burlington Northern Santa Fe, the Single-Family Blight Abatement Program, State Farm Insurance Company moving to downtown, Bass Pro Shops, and Five Guys Burgers opening; the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Washington State Department of Corrections, the STAR community rating, the Rapid Response Graffiti Program, Old City Hall repairs, events and attendance numbers up at the Convention Center, the long-term sales agreement with the Tacoma Regional Convention and Visitor's Bureau, adoption of the Shoreline Master Program, the Port of Tacoma Shoreline Access agreement, and the South Downtown Subarea Plan.

He reviewed 2013 accomplishments under the Council's strategic direction to plan for and improve public infrastructure that meets the transportation needs of all Tacoma residents and visitors, including: the MOU with Metro Parks for Fort Nisqually, the Murray Morgan Bridge renovation, the Pacific Avenue Streetscape Project, Stadium Way improvements, completion of Old Town Dock, phases one and two of the way-finding project, phase one of the Pipeline Trail, and signal detection repairs at 20 intersections.

He reviewed accomplishments under the Council's strategic 2013 direction to encourage and promote an open, effective, results-oriented organization, including the City Council automated agenda process, Neighborhood Council

Program ordinance revisions and the Standards and Guidelines documents, the establishment of the Customer Support Center, Every-Other Week garbage collection, re-designed City website, new studio sets and productions for TV Tacoma, work on a one-stop permitting center, established Tacoma 24/7 performance measures tracking and reporting, and recognition from the ICMA for performance management.

14-0149 Discussion of Emerging Issues: Transportation.

The Council recessed at 10:25 a.m. and reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

Mayor Strickland provided opening comments on transportation and streets. Kurtis Kingsolver, Director of Public Works, reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Tacoma streets. He began with the street system, including residential and arterial streets, pavement condition rating, maintenance and capital. He reviewed the Street Operations' 2013-2014 budget, and the historical budget for street maintenance. He showed comparative data from the ICMA regarding expenditures per paved lane mile for Tacoma versus the national average, and budget comparisons for total operating and maintenance expenditures per lane mile maintained for Tacoma, Portland, Seattle, and Spokane. Mr. Kingsolver showed photos of arterial streets and reviewed arterial street conditions, then reviewed residential streets and their conditions.

Mr. Kingsolver concluded by reviewing potential funding options, including a commercial parking tax, LTGO bond issuance, Transportation Benefit District revenues, UGTO-Voter approved bond, and levy lid lift. Mayor Strickland requested a comparison with the City of Spokane for their tax base and dollars spent on streets. Council Member Mello discussed building out more greenroads as a way to clean water and help rebuild the road system. Discussion ensued regarding poor and failing roads and street improvements needed, Local Improvement Districts, and ways to increase tax base.

The Council recessed for lunch at 11:14 p.m. The special meeting reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

14-0150 Discussion of Emerging Issues: Public Safety.

Mayor Strickland stated she requested the Fire and Police Chiefs to present today, noting during the last budget cycle, reductions were made to public safety and there has not been a lot of recent discussion on public safety.

Fire Chief Jim Duggan review Tacoma Fire Department's (TFD) mission, vision, and values; strategic plan goals for 2014-2018, deployment changes for 2013 and 2014, including the closure of Station 6, modified service at Stations 13 and 15, a decrease in the number of available frontline engine companies, moving a ladder company from Station 9 to Station 13 to provide 24-hour EMS coverage, the relocation of fireboat Destiny to Tacoma Yacht Club

moorage, cross-staffing on fireboat Destiny, and a decrease to on-duty frontline staffing. He then reviewed statistics for 2013 incidents, performance indicators, and response time details. Chief Duggan concluded with 2014 initiatives, including to reduce non-emergency responses, departmental reaccreditation, a wellness/fitness initiative, completion of the MSCO, and a smoke alarm initiative.

Police Chief Don Ramsdell reviewed Tacoma Police Department's (TPD) current organization structure, 2013 goals and accomplishments, crime trends, total overall crime statistics for Tacoma from 2009 to 2013, crimes against persons, crimes against property, crimes against society, non-self initiated calls for service, self-initiated calls for service, and response time. He concluded with 2014 department goals, including to reduce selected property crime by 10 percent, continue to refine and implement the Tacoma Crime Control System, attain full staffing of commissioned positions, design and implement Community Liaison Officer Work Flow Management System, and obtain national accreditation in crime scene investigation and latent print examinations through the American National Standards Institute/American Society for Quality.

14-0151 2014 Objectives.

Ms. Morrison asked Council Members to break into small groups to work on their list of proposed 2014 strategic objectives.

At approximately 2:25 p.m. the Council returned and each group shared the following draft strategic objectives:

1. Focus on development of the South Tacoma and Lincoln Mixed-Use Centers.
2. To launch an equity and empowerment initiative with a dual focus to include an internal directive and external initiative.
3. To cultivate strong relationships with primary employers in Tacoma and leverage their presence to attract other investors.
4. Engage local anchoring institutions to drive economic development purchasing and hiring.
5. Continue to maintain the focus on basic and essential functions of government.
5. Continue to cultivate a relationship with State Farm
6. Develop a comprehensive green road program to improve water quality and neighborhood infrastructure.
7. Make Tacoma one of the Welcoming Cities and Counties to create a more welcoming, immigrant-friendly environment.
8. Create a City U.S. Open Task Force to prepare to market and position Tacoma.

Council Members then conducted an exercise to rank the strategic objectives.

Ms. Morrison stated these 2014 strategic objectives will be discussed at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting and a resolution will be prepared to have the Council formally adopt the five objectives with the most points.

City Manager T.C. Broadnax noted three of the 2013-2014 objectives remain on the list of objectives and they are:

1. Make Tacoma more physically attractive.
2. Develop and implement a comprehensive transportation plan.
3. Develop and implement a marketing/communication campaign.

Council Member Walker requested to add the words "public safety" to the Council's Strategic Policy Priority #2 so it now reads: Strengthen and support Public Safety, Human Services, Public Education, and Diverse Higher Learning Opportunities in Tacoma.

14-0152

Next Steps: Strategic Planning 2015 and Beyond.

City Manager T.C. Broadnax provided details for the upcoming visioning process. He stated a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued to hire a consultant for a long-term visioning process for the City. He stated it will be a very engaged, community process. He noted the RFP is due on March 25, 2014, then a selection committee will convene, a resolution to confirm the chosen consultant will come before Council for consideration the end of March, staff will work with the consultant and the community for several months, then present the draft plan to Council in the fall. He listed key areas of focus: public health and safety, quality of life and livability, economic vibrancy and employment, culture, arts, recreation, educational opportunity and attainment, government performance and effective, efficient, and economical services; and infrastructure, mobility, and environmental sustainability.

Discussion ensued regarding cultivating relationships with primary employers in Tacoma and leverage their presence to attract potential investors.

Ms. Morrison reviewed today's agenda to ensure all items had been covered. She then asked Council Members to discuss what they would keep or change about today's workshop. Discussion ensued regarding today's workshop. Council Member Campbell asked when Council will start receiving preliminary communication on the 2015-2016 budget.

Closing Comments

Mayor Strickland provided closing remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk