



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

December 14, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Blocker called the study session to order at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 2 - Beale and Mayor Woodards

Mayor Woodards arrived at 12:19 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-1254](#) Implementation of American Rescue Plan Act Projects Update

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget, presented an update on implementation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) projects, including the timeline; planned 2021 ARPA distributions by priority area; status updates for funded projects, noting those that have been implemented, are partially implemented, are in the contract process, or are in the planning stages; unfunded proposals that Council Members requested be revisited before the end of 2021, noting the requested amounts and available ARPA project reserves; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Member support for funding the previously unfunded proposals with ARPA project reserve funds.

Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 12:19 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding the status of unfunded projects, how ARPA project reserve funds were set aside, using the regular budget process for 2022 ARPA distributions, and a request for a list of nonprofits and support programs.

2. [21-1255](#) Camping Ordinance Community Discussion De-brief

At approximately 12:24 p.m., Council Member Ushka presented a de-brief on community discussions related to homelessness and the proposed camping ordinance, including a letter summarizing the December 6, 2021, community meeting and the December 9, 2021, Community Vitality and Safety (CVS) Committee meeting; and topics covered, noting the divertible calls program, a request for a map of schools, parks, and authorized camping sites, a request for a report on reliability of data on available shelter space, evaluating community volunteer options, the process timeline, additional meetings with stakeholders, tracking individuals who repeatedly refuse shelter, accountability measures, and public input. She concluded with a summary of the community meeting, including participation, poll results, and themes of comments and questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the goal for the CVS Committee to return to the full City Council with recommendations by the first quarter of 2022; strategies to get real-time data on shelter bed availability; staffing recommendations related to maximizing shelter use; the urgency of issues facing residents, business owners, and those facing homelessness; property destruction and violent crime near encampments; previous enforcement strategies; using technology to provide easier access to shelters; individuals who refuse shelter; ways to mitigate the impacts of authorized encampments; accountability; a recommendation to invite museum partners to future discussions; and a recognition of other impacts on the community, noting crime rates and recent increases in arrests and jail bookings.

Other Items of Interest

3. [21-1256](#) Proposition No. 1- Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

Mayor Woodards presented proposed resolutions expressing support for the passage of Tacoma School District No. 10's Proposition No. 1 and Proposition No. 2 on the February 8, 2022, Special Election, related to levies for educational programs, operations, and technology improvements and upgrades, which are on tonight's agenda for City Council action.

4. [21-1257](#) Proposition No. 2 - Replacement Levy for Technology Improvements and Upgrades

This item was presented with Item No. 3.

Executive Session - Potential and Pending Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential and pending litigation, not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Beale

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 1:05 p.m. Bill Fosbre, City Attorney, and Mike Smith, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, were present.

The Executive Session concluded at 1:46 p.m.

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The study session recessed at 1:46 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 2:03 p.m.

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5. [21-1258](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Mike Ake, Interim Chief, Tacoma Police Department, provided an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including the status of investigations on the two officers who were charged by the Washington State Attorney General's Office, noting that he received the Assistant Chief's recommendations and full packets on December 13, 2021, and that he expects to provide his findings by the end of this week, subject to any further questions.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 6. [21-1259](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, December 9, 2021

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that there is one ceremonial on tonight’s meeting agenda, for an update on systems transformation; that changes are expected on tonight's agenda, noting a proposed amendment on the previously amended Ordinance No. 28798, related to the Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption Program, and a motion to continue Ordinance No. 28799 to a date to be determined; and reminded everyone that Community Forum will be held during tonight’s meeting.

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Council Member Ushka stated the CVS Committee presentation and the letter she presented are available on the City website.

Closed Session - Labor Strategy

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

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

Ayes: 6 - Blocker, Hines, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Beale, Hunter and McCarthy

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

The Closed Session was held after adjournment of the study session.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk