



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

October 12, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 2:39 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0974](#) Federal Affairs Update and Draft Priorities

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office, provided opening remarks on topics and timelines related to the City's federal priorities, and introduced Jen Covino, President, Simon and Company, Inc. Ms. Covino presented updates on federal affairs and the City's draft federal priorities, including an overview; information on the 117th United States Congress and the Presidential administration; 2020 platform updates, noting COVID-19 relief, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, economic security, climate, and housing; updates to 2020 priorities related to earmarks, noting projects included in the INVEST in America Act and various appropriations bills; executive orders and other federal efforts related to systems transformation, police reform, and economic security; priorities related to human dignity and public safety, noting gun violence and immigration; infrastructure impacts, noting the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), climate and environment, water and energy, telecommunications, the Build Back Better Act, human and social infrastructure, and affordable housing and homelessness; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding workforce development funding through the IJJA, Build Back Better Act, and reconciliation bills; ways that Council Members and United States Representatives can support specific priorities; the process for appropriations versus competitive grant funding; alignment of City and federal priorities; infrastructure funding opportunities and possible proposals; and outreach strategies, including scheduling meetings with the United States Congressional Delegation, senior political appointees, and staff.

2. [21-0975](#) Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations Hearing De-brief and Potential Amendments

At approximately 1:07 p.m., Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks on the October 5, 2021, Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations public hearing, including themes of comments received, and introduced Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office. Mr. Victor provided a debriefing on the public hearing and potential amendments, including ongoing work on the Tideflats Subarea Plan and Washington State Clean Fuels Standard (CFS); standards for cleaner fuel infrastructure, noting restrictions against any new facilities, providing for expansion of existing facilities, and allowing new cleaner fuel infrastructure for ethanol production; a comparison of different clean fuel definitions and code changes from the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee, Planning Commission, and Whatcom County; and the existing Puget Sound Energy (PSE) liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility, noting the Environmental Impact Statement, permits, and IPS Committee recommendation to acknowledge the project as permitted. Mr. Huffman further reviewed the difference between the existing State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), enhanced SEPA, and Conditional Use Permit (CUP) processes, noting the hearing body, notification lists, public meeting requirements, public comment periods, and examples; environmental review of the PSE LNG project, noting the SEPA determination, baseline for review, IPS Committee and Planning Commission conclusions, and project review of future proposed expansions; and a revised schedule for City Council discussion and action, noting first reading of the Tideflats Non-Interim Regulations ordinance on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, and the expiration of the Tideflats Interim Regulations on Thursday, December 2, 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding consultation with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians; making Tacoma a hub for credit-generating fuels under the CFS; intentions and clarifications of specific language and definitions, noting ethanol, petroleum, compressed natural gas, and LNG; the CUP process; military exemptions; comparisons to other agencies; environmental impacts of the regulations; Washington State standards, noting the rulemaking process and future impacts; appreciation for staff and the IPS Committee; and next steps.

3. [21-0976](#) Community Safety and Policing Proposals

At approximately 2:22 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on mid-biennium budget proposals related to policing and community safety, and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, and Mike Ake, Interim Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD). Ms. Johnston presented an agenda; TPD vacancy rates for commissioned officer positions; increased overtime costs; TPD labor budgets and vacancy projections from 2019 to 2024; and a comparison of budgeted versus actual costs for TPD labor in 2021. Interim Chief Ake reviewed TPD's transformation efforts, noting laws, reports, legal requirements, recommendations, and related projects; mid-biennium budget proposals, noting their impacts on transformation, recruiting and retaining staff, technology upgrades, and violent crime reduction; proposals that directly respond to study recommendations and legal requirements; and a summary of TPD efforts. City Manager Pauli concluded with a high-level review of community safety proposals, including a cross-departmental divertible call and alternative response model approach, Project Partnering for Equity and Community Engagement support, and youth violence prevention.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 2:39 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding increased vacancy rates, personnel budget versus expenditures and available funds, recruitment and training constraints, confirming that funds are available to fill current vacancies, training alternatives, a request for additional data on recruitment and training bottlenecks, the budget for other community safety efforts, homeless encampment response, crisis response and non-emergency call diversion, ways to increase the pace of implementing changes and provide visible improvements to the community, prioritizing training, the increase in violent crime, community concerns about TPD response, options to develop a Pierce County training cohort, and major dates and upcoming actions.

Other Items of Interest

4. [21-0977](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

This item was not addressed.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [21-0978](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 7, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming October 2021 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a Compassionate Tacoma recognition for Connor Mon, and a systems transformation update. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected on tonight's agenda.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

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

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk