



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

City Council Chambers

October 23, 2018

12:00 PM

Change of Location

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:11 p.m.

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Camarata, Hunter, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ibsen

Deputy Mayor Ibsen arrived at 12:15 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [18-1262](#) Budget Presentation - Public Safety and Homelessness

At approximately 12:12 p.m., Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, provided opening remarks and introductions for the Police, Fire, and Neighborhood and Community Services Department budgets.

Deputy Mayor Ibsen arrived here, at 12:15 p.m.

Don Ramsdell, Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented information on the TPD budget, including an overview of TPD programs, major accomplishments, outstanding challenges, funding, expenses, and goals and major initiatives.

Discussion ensued regarding methods to reduce the hiring process timeline; citizen concerns and perceptions about police presence; "full staffing" compared to pre-recession staffing levels; potential impacts of proposed Washington State Initiative 940; staff retention, including projected retirements; intracity assessments; recruitment efforts; property crime rates; community partnerships and outreach; and increases for training, investigation resources, and equipment.

The study session recessed at 1:10 p.m. and reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

James P. Duggan, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), provided introductory remarks and introduced Teresa Green, Fire Finance and Planning Manager, TFD. Mr. Duggan presented the TFD budget, including an overview of programs, major accomplishments, outstanding challenges, fire station conditions, Emergency Management System (EMS) fund fiscal sustainability, funding, expenses, goals, cost recovery and fines for non-emergent services, and major initiatives.

Discussion ensued regarding non-emergent "lift-assist" fines, staging implementations of new fees and fines, response time improvements, accreditation status, staffing levels, services, the TFD Cares program, diversity in staff recruitment and retention efforts, the concept of "Safe Stations", and impact fees.

Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided a presentation on the NCS budget related to homelessness, including an overview of programs, major accomplishments and areas of opportunity, service level agreements, funding, expenses, sustained contracts, funding recommendations, and goals and major initiatives.

Discussion ensued regarding homelessness programs, resources, and partnerships; transition of programs from Community and Economic Development to NCS; staffing related to code enforcement nuisances and derelict homes; reducing time to close code compliance cases; data and accountability measures; and improving various types of services for residents across the City.

City Manager Pauli provided concluding remarks and upcoming budget presentations. She stated Council Members should bring any new budget requests forward as soon as possible.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [18-1263](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, October 18, 2018
City Manager Pauli stated that Tacoma Public Utilities has invited a member of the City Council to attend a listening session with a focus group of Click! customers on Monday, October 29, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

She further stated there are no changes expected to tonight's Meeting agenda.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: At 3:35 p.m., Council Member Mello moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to 42.30.140(4)(a) and (b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 40 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Camarata, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

The Council convened to Closed Session at 3:40 p.m.

The Closed Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk