



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

City Council Chambers

October 09, 2018

12:00 PM

Change of Location

Call to Order

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

Present: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Camarata, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Hunter and McCarthy

Council Member Hunter arrived at 2:38 p.m.

Mayor Woodards stated she recently spoke with Council Member Thoms, who has returned from active duty military service, and he plans to return to the Council in late October or November.

Briefing Items

1. [18-1192](#) 2019/2020 Biennial Budget Presentation - Asset Management, Walkability and Community Development

At approximately 12:13 p.m., Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, provided introductory remarks and introduced the budget presentations by staff from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Public Works (PW), Planning and Development Services (PDS), and Community and Economic Development (CED).

Christina Watts Curran, Lead Budget Analyst, OMB, reviewed capital budget terminology, the difference between the Capital Facilities Program versus the Capital Budget, an overview of the draft 2019-2024 Capital Facilities Program, and a high-level review of the proposed 2019-2020 Capital Budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the Tacoma Fire Facility Master Plan; impact of deferred maintenance on the overall budget and costs; and sidewalk maintenance and installation.

Kurtis Kingsolver, Director, PW, provided introductory remarks and described the department, which includes the divisions of Engineering, Street Operations, and Facilities. He provided an overview of department programs, major accomplishments, and outstanding challenges in the current biennium; an overview of funding and expenses for the 2019-2020 budget; department goals, council priorities, and major initiatives in the next biennium; and a summary. He concluded by reviewing major initiatives related to Council priorities, focused on walkability, transit access, asset management, street conditions, and equity.

Discussion ensued regarding walkability; 'Vision Zero' planning; school crossing beacons; projects funded by the Streets Initiative; strategic planning, including a consideration of Council priorities; Pierce Transit budget; Transportation Master Plan updates; real estate excise tax revenues; city gas tax local revenues and uses; positive impacts of sidewalk improvements; and a breakdown of projects by Council district.

Peter Huffman, Director, PDS, provided introductory remarks and outlined the department's divisions of Planning Services and Development Services; reviewed department programs and their focus to integrate and streamline services; major accomplishments and outstanding challenges in the current biennium; funding and expenses in the proposed 2019-2020 budget; department goals, council priorities, and major initiatives; and department focus areas. He concluded by outlining major initiatives related to Council priorities, including civic engagement, transit access, and economic development; and reviewing the expedited permitting program, residential permitting improvements, proposed fee adjustments, and programs focused on equity.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding comparisons to other jurisdictions; permit turnaround and timelines; impacts of level of service expectations on staff; transit access and displacement risk related to development; impacts of growth; green building; 'studio' programs and residential infill; and landscaping code enforcement.

Mayor Woodards recessed the study session at 2:03 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 2:24 p.m.

Jeff Robinson, Director, CED, provided introductory remarks and described the department, which includes Business Services and Workforce Partnerships, Economic Development Services, and Housing Services. He provided an overview of department programs and staffing, major accomplishments, and outstanding challenges in the current biennium; an

overview of funding and expenses for the 2019-2020 budget; and department goals, Council priorities, and major initiatives in the next biennium.

Council Member Hunter arrived here, at 2:38 p.m.

Mr. Robinson further described major CED initiatives related to equity; affordable housing; economic development; and community engagement. He stated that the Neighborhood Council and Innovative Grants programs have been moved from CED to Neighborhood and Community Services.

Discussion ensued related to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund; general tone of the economic development plan; marketing program outcomes; Live-Work Tacoma incentives; retention of recent college graduates in the Tacoma work force; increasing resources and staffing for housing programs; leveraging relationships with groups like South Sound Proud for outreach; and outreach to existing local businesses.

City Manager Pauli concluded the budget presentations and outlined upcoming presentation topics for the October 16, 23, and 30, 2018 study sessions.

Other Items of Interest

City Manager Pauli shared a letter regarding the Stability Site from a resident who utilized the services there.

Committee Reports

Council Member Mello stated the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), for which he sits on the Board on behalf of the Council, has released a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Puget Sound Energy Liquefied Natural Gas Plant, and has scheduled two public hearings on October 30, 2018. He also stated the PSCAA is considering a regional low-carbon fuel standard, and will hold a public hearing on the topic on November 15, 2018, in Seattle.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [18-1182](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, October 4, 2018

City Manager Pauli stated that tonight's meeting agenda includes two proclamations, proclaiming October 2018 as Italian American Heritage and Culture Month, and proclaiming October 13, 2018 as Arbor Day and Green Tacoma Day. She further stated there are no changes expected to tonight's agenda.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk