



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

January 27, 2015

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PORT OF TACOMA

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the joint meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Present: 7 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 2 - Mello and Thoms

Port Commissioners Present: 5 - Bacon, Johnson, Marzano, Meyer, and Petrich.

Port Commissioners Absent: 0

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:08 p.m. and Council Member Mello arrived at 12:44 p.m.

Joint City Council/Port of Tacoma Commission Briefing Items

1. [15-0053](#) Regional Center for Foreign Direct Investment

Mayor Strickland introduced Don Johnson, President of the Port of Tacoma Commission. President Johnson then introduced the remaining Commissioners and thanked everyone who helped get the Port of Tacoma Road rebuilt to heavy haul standards.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:08 p.m.

Mayor Strickland provided background information on foreign direct investment in the City, and introduced Louise Tieman, World Trade Center Tacoma (WTCTA). Ms. Tieman provided additional background information regarding the WTCTA becoming an EB-5 regional center to drive development in Tacoma, and introduced Arnie Sherman, World Trade Center Montana.

Mr. Sherman stated he has been working with the World Trade Center Savannah to develop their EB-5 regional center to encourage foreign direct investment and job creation, and build new projects to support growth and expansion. He provided information on Global Development Holdings, Inc. (GDH), which is the parent company for several financial and international business interests, and EB-5 projects. Mr. Sherman next reviewed EB-5 regional centers, including the definition of EB-5, benefits, basic requirements, successful project qualifications, and statistics. He then provided information regarding the process to create an EB-5 regional center, the timeline for receipt of EB-5 funds, the investment structure, typical EB-5 projects, a hypothetical funding model, and the process and cost of becoming an EB-5 regional center.

Council Member Mello arrived here, at 12:44 p.m.

Mr. Sherman concluded by reviewing the types of services GDH will provide to WTCTA. Discussion ensued regarding the history of EB-5 funds due to issues with customs and immigration; the impact of foreign investment regulations from other countries on the United States; the relationship between GDH, the World Trade Center Montana, and EB-5 regional centers; funding; the proposed EB-5 Regional Center of Tacoma; the financing model for public projects versus private developers; start-up costs; application fees; other EB-5 regional centers in the state; and next steps.

Upon proper motion, the joint study session adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Mayor Strickland thanked the Port Commissioners for attending and stated Council would take a short break.

City Council Briefing Items

Mayor Strickland called the regular study session to order at 1:26 p.m.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [15-0054](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, January 22, 2015

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated on tonight's Council agenda there is one proclamation proclaiming February 1, 2015 as National Freedom Day in the City of Tacoma, and a recognition of Mr. Bouchaib Mifdal from the Tacoma sister city of El Jadida, Morocco. He then stated there are no changes to the published agenda and noted there may be public comment regarding minimum standards for paid sick leave.

Other Items of Interest

15-0087 Proposed Amendments - Ordinance No. 28275

Council Member Mello provided Council with copies of proposed amendments to Ordinance No. 28275 that he will bring forward at tonight's Council meeting. He then reviewed the proposed carryover amendment and noted it reduces bookkeeping; aligns other sections of the Ordinance as it relates to the carryover provision; and simplifies, clarifies, and provides easy implementation for access to paid leave at the beginning of the year. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed carryover amendment, including the intent of the provision, accrual, the amount of carryover days, front-loading paid sick days, accrual and carryover caps, cash-out options, bookkeeping requirements, the use of calendar years versus hire dates, the definition of a calendar year, fiscal impacts, and the rule-making process. Deputy Mayor Boe requested a copy of the previous amendments for Ordinance No. 28275 with the amendments proposed today shown in strikethroughs.

Council Member Mello reviewed additional proposed amendments related to the exclusion of persons subject to collective bargaining agreements. Discussion continued regarding the proposed amendment, including definitions, whether there are bargaining requirements, and the waiver provision.

Mayor Strickland reviewed a proposed amendment related to a pay-in-lieu provision that allows employers to pay employees more money rather than allowing paid sick days, and an amendment to define an employee as a person who performs more than 80 hours of work in Tacoma within a calendar year. Discussion continued regarding the proposed amendments, including impacts on businesses, the rule-making process, the process for modifying the Ordinance in the future, similar rules in other jurisdictions, and state rules. Mayor Strickland stated she will also offer language at tonight's Council meeting to clarify her intent regarding the number of carryover days allowed.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Boe moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, the session not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

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

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:15 p.m. City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli was present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:25 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk