



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

April 21, 2015

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

Present: 7 - Boe, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 2 - Campbell and Woodards

Council Member Woodards arrived at 12:13 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [15-0419](#) New Amtrak Station at Freighthouse Square

Mayor Strickland announced there is one item on the agenda for discussion and representatives from the Washington State Department of Transportation will describe the progress made to date on the new Amtrak Station at Freighthouse Square scheduled to open by late 2017. Mayor Strickland called on Ian Munce, Special Assistant to the Director, Planning and Development Services, for opening remarks and introductions. Mr. Munce gave background information regarding the project which included the appointment of a citizen advisory committee and introduced Ronald Pate, Rail Division Director, Washington State Department of Transportation, and David Smelser, Rail Capital Program Manager. Mr. Smelser began by giving a brief update on the program, program costs, the length of the rail corridor, and who owns and operates the railroad. He stated the program will give two additional round trips between Seattle and Portland, then discussed on-time performance and high-speed rail project progress. Discussion ensued regarding specific projects and the current status of each project.

Council Member Woodards arrived here, at 12:13 p.m.

Mr. Smelser discussed congestion relief, safety upgrades, new equipment and station work, the Tacoma Point Defiance bypass, the new Amtrak station at Freighthouse Square, platforms on both sides of the tracks, the rehabilitation of railroad bridges and the construction of a fourth bridge. He then discussed the

Amtrak Station at Freighthouse Square in more detail, stating it will be a 10,000 square foot new building within the existing building, designed in conjunction with the citizen advisory committee, City officials, and community input. He noted discussions are continuing regarding the look of the platform relative to access, wayfinding signage, safety upgrades, and the clock tower. He then discussed an operating and maintenance plan for the arcade area which still needs to be completed. He concluded his presentation stating he is looking forward to completing the project and having a grand opening in the summer of 2017. Mayor Strickland thanked Mr. Smelser for all of his work and the coordination of the public agencies. Discussion ensued regarding accessibility, the arcade, the clock tower, wayfinding, pedestrian walkway improvements, parking, and passenger crossings.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [15-0420](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, April 16, 2015

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there are two proclamations proclaiming Wednesday, April 22, 2015, as Earth Day in the City of Tacoma and proclaiming Sunday, April 26, 2015, as Domestic Violence Awareness Day. He stated there are no changes to the agenda.

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: 8 - Boe, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Campbell

Mayor Strickland stated Council would take a five minute break followed by Executive Session.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 12:50 p.m. City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli was present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk