



# City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**January 24, 2022**

**2:00 PM**

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## SPECIAL MEETING

### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

Mayor Woodards stated that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the Traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Walker

Council Member Walker arrived at 2:31 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS BY THE MAYOR

Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks about the retreat format; purpose, noting team building and getting to know the new Council Members; future retreat topics, noting priorities, goals, and budget; and the participation of the City Manager in this year's retreat activities.

### INTRODUCTION, AGENDA REVIEW, GUIDANCE BY THE FACILITATOR

Mayor Woodards introduced Renée Smith, Founder and CEO, A Human Workplace LLC. Ms. Smith introduced herself and outlined the virtual retreat agenda, including guidance, noting the importance of strong connections; keys for success; and preparing for the conversations and breakout sessions.

Council Member Walker arrived here, at 2:31 p.m.

## BRIEFING ITEMS

1. [22-0102](#) Connecting activity

At approximately 2:31 p.m., Ms. Smith outlined the activity for Council Members to connect with each other.

Discussion ensued regarding individual Council Members' perspectives and goals for today's retreat, including building relationships, discovering common ground, finding ways to take proactive action and have a real impact, challenges and opportunities of the virtual meeting format, and addressing the community's needs.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 2:55 p.m.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 3:03 p.m.

2. [22-0103](#) Exploring your stories of public service

At approximately 3:03 p.m., Ms. Smith presented the exercise for Council Members to share their stories of public service.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 3:10 p.m. to allow attendees to enter discussion breakout rooms.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 3:28 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding review of the breakout room discussions, including the motivations, values, and inspirations that lead each of them to join public service; and common themes, noting the drive to help others and make a difference, connections with community and family members, and a love for Tacoma.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 3:45 p.m.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 3:50 p.m.

3. [22-0104](#) Reflecting on experiences of 2020-2021

At approximately 3:50 p.m., Ms. Smith presented the exercise to reflect on individual experiences of 2020-2021, including negative and positive life experiences, and physiological and emotional impacts.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 4:01 p.m. to allow attendees to enter discussion breakout rooms.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 4:20 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, noting challenges, opportunities, changes to City services and City Council meetings, and personal interactions; local, national, and international events, noting racial tensions, poverty, and homelessness; decision-making and working in crisis mode; making progress on difficult issues; the new energy and perspectives provided by new Council Members; feedback from the community; the importance of leadership; and strategies to combat stress, deal with challenges, and build relationships.

4. [22-0105](#) Discussion of vision and hopes for 2022

At approximately 4:40 p.m., Ms. Smith presented the exercise to discuss vision and hopes for the next two years, including how Council Members hope to work together, and what they would like to have accomplished.

The City Council special meeting recessed at 4:41 p.m. to allow attendees to enter discussion breakout rooms.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 4:52 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding priorities, noting community safety, reducing crime, vision, transformation efforts, and homelessness; public perceptions; improving communication and collaboration; assuming good intentions; being willing to disagree; setting clear goals and vision; and how the information shared today can help during the full-day retreat.

5. [22-0106](#) Preparation for retreat

At approximately 4:56 p.m., Ms. Smith reviewed preparations for the City Council retreat, including a request that Council Members set aside time to connect with each other, and next steps to finalize the retreat timeline and agenda.

## CLOSING REMARKS

Mayor Woodards made closing remarks, including appreciation for Ms. Smith; the proposal to schedule an in-person retreat on Monday, February 14, 2022, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; next steps to schedule one-on-one meetings with Ms. Smith prior to the retreat; staff meetings with

Council Members to get feedback on priority areas; the possibility that some topics will need more discussion in City Council committee meetings or full City Council mini-retreat sessions; and making sure the City Manager and staff understand the City Council's direction and priorities.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk