



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

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

**April 23, 2024**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Rumbaugh and Ushka

### Briefing Items

1. [24-0434](#) Urban Design Review Public Hearing Preparation  
[Carl Metz, and Stephen Antupit, Senior Planners, Planning and Development Services; Bret Santhuff, Planning Commission]

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Carl Metz and Stephen Antupit, Senior Planners, Planning and Development Services, provided a brief overview of the Urban Design Review Program (UDRP) and introduced Brett Santhuff, Commissioner, Planning Commission. Together, Antupit and Metz presented an agenda, including what problems this program solves and the guidance from the One Tacoma Comprehensive Plan; Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee's guidance; package overview; UDRP applicability; permit review process, noting two approval tracks, including administrative and board review; approval criteria and guidelines; Urban Design Board (UDB); and code amendments, noting mixed-use center and downtown zoning. Santhuff continued with public engagement and stakeholder perspective. Antupit concluded with implementation and a proposed calendar.

Discussion ensued regarding collaboration with the IPS Committee; State Environmental Policy Act regulations; examples of how this program would be beneficial; commercial versus residential, noting building size; when the UDRP process would go into effect; simultaneous committee, board, and commissioner appointments and potential UDB members with lived experience in mixed-use centers; guidelines, noting functionality not style or color; and revisions process.

- 2. [24-0437](#) Transportation Benefit District - Proposed Amendments to Tacoma Municipal Code Section 10.28.020  
[Ramiro Chavez, Director, Public Works]

At approximately 12:50 p.m., Ramiro Chavez, Director, Public Works, presented opening remarks on the Transportation Benefit District, including background, noting the proposed ordinance; issues, noting maintenance and preservation of streets and transportation system; proposed amendments; next steps; and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding full support of maintaining our improvements, rationale for not including this in the original approach, which operations are included in the proposal, and flexibility and limitations of funds.

### Other Items of Interest

- 3. [24-0441](#) Council Consideration Request - Litter Reduction Public Education Campaign  
[Council Member Rumbaugh]

Council Member Bushnell presented a Council Consideration Request to support a resolution directing the City Manager to review options for a public education campaign to reduce littering and increase participation in litter cleanup programs, and to share options and a proposal as part of the 2025-2026 biennium budget recommendation. He concluded by stating in 2023, the City removed more than 4.9 million pounds of litter, illegal dumping, and garbage from public areas, including potentially dangerous items, such as glass, human waste, or cigarettes, that can carry germs and diseases, create fire hazards, harm people, attract pests or rodents, and the presence of litter can also contribute to negative perceptions of safety and well-being.

Discussion ensued regarding the budget.

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Mayor Woodards presented a brief overview of a conversation coming forward next week on the Charter Review Process ahead of receiving the final recommendations, noting key dates including: April 30, 2024, where staff will present a high level timeline of the dates to be aware of to move items forward on the November ballot, and Council will discuss next steps after receiving the final report from the Charter Review Committee; and May 6, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. as a special meeting to hear their final

recommendations and give Council the opportunity to ask clarifying questions.

Discussion ensued regarding draft language and process.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [24-0450](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, April 18, 2024  
[Melanie Harding, Acting City Manager]

Acting City Manager Melanie Harding stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Friday, April 26, 2024, as Domestic Violence Awareness Day; proclaiming May 2024 as Bike Month; and a presentation of the Washington State Volunteer Service Award. She concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and tonight's meeting includes two public hearings on Urban Design Project Review and the 2024 Annual Action Plan, and community forum.

## Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Hines moved to convene to executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and (ii) to discuss pending and potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker**

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

**Ayes:** 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Rumbaugh and Ushka

The City Council convened to executive session at 1:15 p.m.  
City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 5 minutes at 1:45 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 1:51 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 1:52 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Nicole Emery, City Clerk