



City of Tacoma Committee of the Whole Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

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

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

January 10, 2025

1:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 1:09 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Daniels, Hines, Sadalge, Scott and Woodards

Absent: 4 - Bushnell, Diaz, Rumbaugh and Walker

Council Member Rumbaugh arrived at 1:10 p.m.

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Council Member Rumbaugh arrived here, at 1:10 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [25-0011](#) Budget Reduction and Revenue Strategy - Context Setting
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance; Reid Bennion, Interim Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 1:10 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks on today's budget review and resources; and reviewed follow up questions from the January 7, 2025, study session, including a revenue growth comparison, noting business, utility, and sales taxes.

Discussion ensued regarding tax revenue, fee revenue, and City Council-controlled revenues.

The Committee of the Whole special meeting recessed at 1:23 p.m. and reconvened at 1:37 p.m.

2. [25-0016](#) Budget Reduction and Revenue Strategy - Current Programs and Services
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance; Reid Bennion, Interim Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 1:37 p.m., City Manager Pauli presented strategy related to current programs and services, including General Fund service additions, resources for Council to review, General Fund programs, supported programs, non-departmental expenses, transfers, and reductions.

Discussion ensued regarding the General Fund versus the Internal Services Fund, and funded programs.

The Committee of the Whole special meeting recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 2:33 p.m.

City Manager Pauli continued with review of draft parameters and criteria for prioritizing, noting service impacts, legal mandates, funding sources, who or what services are provided for, service duplication with other jurisdictions, and service fees or taxes.

Discussion ensued regarding level of demand and quality of services, noting impacts, matching funds, current projects with future fund availability, data usage, staff resources, using technology to assist, and fees; and services related to senior wellness, homelessness, human resources, affordable housing, and facility and fleet maintenance.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk



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January 24, 2025

1:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Daniels, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Woodards

Absent: 2 - Bushnell and Diaz

Council Members Bushnell and Diaz arrived at 1:01 p.m.

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Council Members Bushnell and Diaz arrived here, at 1:01 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [25-0061](#)

Budget Reduction and Revenue Strategy Process

[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance; Reid Bennion, Interim Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 1:01 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli introduced discussion on budget reductions and revenue strategy, including an agenda; resources; and the budget reduction target, noting the General Fund (GF) structural gap; and parameters and criteria for departmental proposals, noting how each proposal lists revenue and service impacts, and related mandates. She then outlined the departmental proposals, including:

- Proposal No. 1: consolidate management within the Center for Strategic Priorities;
- Proposal No. 2: reduce staffing in the Arts and Cultural Vitality division by eliminating a vacant position;
- Proposal No. 3: reduce the contract for animal sheltering;
- Proposal No. 4: expand the audit function in the Tax and License division;
- Proposal No. 5: reduce Tacoma Fire Department non-commissioned administrative support services;

- Proposal No. 6: reduce GF allocations from the Mental Health and Substance Use fund that are eligible for opioid funding;
- Proposal No. 7: discontinue the Neighborhood Planning Program (NPP) after completion of the South Tacoma Neighborhood Plan and Cushman Redevelopment study;
- Proposal No. 8: reduce Tacoma Police Department non-commissioned administrative support services;
- Proposal No. 9: eliminate the Lexipol contract support for management and training services;
- Proposal No. 10: reduce capital facilities program support by eliminating a vacant position;
- Proposal No. 11: eliminate funding for 4th of July fireworks; and
- Proposal No. 12: reallocate community event grant funding and production costs, to be supported by the new Food and Beverage Excise Tax.

She concluded by outlining proposed uses of opioid settlement funding, noting funds received to date and anticipated through 2038, and examples of eligible uses; proposals not being considered at this time due to public safety service delivery impacts, ongoing policy discussions, or timing issues; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding various proposals, including No. 1, noting that an interim change is already in place and would be made permanent, support for consolidation, and embedding equity into the City's wider strategy and policy framework; No. 3, noting the existing Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County contract, increased rates and expenses, negotiations, Pierce County's share of shelter use and costs, comparisons with other agencies, animal control and sheltering practices, community impacts, and license fees and fines; No. 4, noting and the focus on collecting taxes owed rather than increasing taxes; No. 5, noting internal and customer service impacts, and that it would not impact emergency response; No. 6, noting long-term funding sources, settlement funding timeline, and appreciation for the Opioid Settlement Task Force; No. 7, noting positive impacts of the NPP, staff reassignments, implementation of completed plans, and community expectations; No. 8, noting it would not impact emergency response; No. 9, noting impacts to policy implementation timelines and transparency; No. 10, noting impacts on service levels and facilities projects; No. 11, noting the importance of the festival to the community, other funding sources, illegal fireworks, and economic impacts; and No. 12, noting existing fund uses, community event grants, tax revenues, and sponsorships.

Discussion continued with additional proposals under consideration, noting today's proposals include \$4.7 million in GF reductions, appreciation for staff time and resources, and next steps.

Mayor Woodards summarized the budget discussions to date; reminded Council Members of the January 31, 2025, Council Workshop special meeting,

noting it will include priority-setting; and stated that future discussions will be needed regarding policy, revenues, and additional budget cuts in the mid-biennial budget modification, noting the ongoing deficit of approximately \$15 million.

Discussion concluded with appreciation for staff for the well-crafted proposals, presentations, and efforts to retain staff and programs; and impacts on staff members and the community.

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Daniels moved to convene to an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation for 10 minutes.

SECOND: Council Member Hines.

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

Ayes: 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Woodards

The City Council convened to executive session at 2:45 p.m. City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes at 3:00 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the special meeting reconvened, at 3:21 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Victoria Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk