



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

**June 26, 2018**

**10:00 AM**

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Chair Conor McCarthy, Vice Chair Catherine Ushka, Lillian Hunter,  
Victoria Woodards, Chris Beale (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**Present:** 3 - Hunter, McCarthy and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Woodards

## Approval of Minutes

1. [18-0685](#) Approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2018

**MOTION:** Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2018 meeting.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Hunter.

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Hunter, McCarthy and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Woodards

2. [18-0688](#) Approval of the minutes of the special meeting of May 1, 2018

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2018 special meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Hunter, McCarthy and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Woodards

## Briefing Items

3. [18-0682](#) Advanced Manufacturing Industry Landscape  
[Linda Nguyen, CEO, Workforce Central]

At approximately 10:09 a.m., Linda Nguyen, Chief Executive Officer, WorkForce Central, made opening remarks and introduced Steve Devlin, General Manager, WestRock; Troy Goodman, President, Targa Sound Terminal; and Stephen Gear, Vice President of Energy Products and Technology Development, Bradken. Mr. Devlin, Mr. Goodman, and Mr. Gear presented background information on the companies, including an overview, history, how many employees are in each company, and how many employees are employed in Tacoma locations and are Tacoma residents. They continued on the employees' average wages, types of jobs, basic job requirements and qualifications, benefits, and on and off-the-job training. They provided information on where they source their employees from, challenges involved, hardest job openings to fill, recruiters involved in the process, entry-level recruitment, and courses and skillsets within the companies. They continued on local companies in Tacoma that are supported by the businesses, and partnerships and relationships. They further reviewed the environmental sustainability of the businesses, noting conservation programs they are involved with, water recycling, environmental impacts, and efficiency of their products. They concluded with how the companies support, engage, and are involved in the community, charitable involvement and contributions, and internship programs.

Discussion ensued regarding the Tideflats Subarea Plan, Clover Park Technical College Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology, current federal tariff effect on the steel market, the gap between education and the workforce, work involved with high school interns, and partnership with

Tacoma Public Schools. Discussion concluded on interim zoning regulations.

4. [18-0683](#) Workforce Development  
[Linda Nguyen, CEO, Workforce Central]

At approximately 10:54 a.m., Ms. Nguyen made opening remarks and provided background information on WorkForce Central, noting leadership, how workforce development works, and partnerships. She presented statistics in Pierce County including workforce statistics and middle scale job statistics, new jobs being created, and unemployment and underemployment rates. She concluded on challenges faced in workforce development, economic growth, sector report key findings, on-the-job training, average wages in Pierce County, and how partnerships can be formed.

Discussion ensued regarding workforce statistics, age ranges of young adults who do not have a high school degree, working family wages, the iDEA School in Tacoma, partnerships, the City's strategic approach towards workforce development, and disparity studies.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [18-0684](#) July 10, 2018 - Port of Tacoma and Seattle SeaPort Alliance Update; Traditional fuel eco-system in Tacoma

Linda Foster, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting on July 10, 2018 will include an update on the Port of Tacoma and Seattle SeaPort Alliance, traditional fuel eco-systems in Tacoma, and an update on Clover Park Technical College Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

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Conor McCarthy, Chair

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Stacy Manthou, City Clerk's Office