



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

July 31, 2018

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:09 p.m.

Present: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Camarata, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Hunter and McCarthy

Briefing Items

1. [18-0865](#) Local Food Access and Equity Research and Projects

At approximately 12:09 p.m., Jim Parvey, Environmental Services Division Manager, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, introduced Brandi Yanez, Community of Interest (COI) Coordinator, Just and Healthy Food System (JHFS), and Kristen McIvor, Director, Harvest Pierce County. Ms. Yanez presented information on the local food access and equity research and projects, including a context of what the JHFS is, values, and structure. She described who the Community Council is, barriers and issues related to food security, themes and critical issues that put pressure on the food system, and testimonies from Community Council members were given. Ms. Yanez reviewed the JHFS Community Council requests. Ms. McIvor provided information on the Urban Agriculture Task Force, including an update of the Environmental Action Plan; firsthand accounts of the current situation; and played a recording of Dean Jackson, Director, Hilltop Urban Gardens (HUG), describing the tested HUG Urban Farm Network model. Ms. McIvor reviewed the Task Force's policy and programming requests. Ms. Yanez presented information on the Community Created Research Team, noting who the team is composed of and their process; and played a recording of Dean Jackson describing community forums hosted and surveying done in the Hilltop neighborhood, and requests from Hilltop. Adriane Wilson, COI Assistant Coordinator, JHFS, provided information on the South Tacoma Design Team, People's Movement Assembly, and requests from South Tacoma. Ms. McIvor concluded by describing connections to City plans, noting Tacoma 2025, Environmental

Action Plan, and One Tacoma; and overarching requests.

Discussion ensued regarding working with the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability (IPS) Committee members and staff to advance the planning and land use element; and the concept of what a food hub is, how it works, and why it is important to the network. Discussion continued on barriers, how to get HUG in East Tacoma, requests from Hilltop, policy requests, and the idea of creating more community pantries in the City and how to fund it. Discussion concluded on assigning the requests to the IPS Committee to look at how to implement the strategies.

Other Items of Interest

2. [18-0892](#) Northwest Detention Center Presentation

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated the presentation is an update on the demonstration at the Northwest Detention Center (NWDC) and to discuss issues encountered and next steps. She informed the Council Members the presentation will include still photos and a video with no sound of the demonstration and introduced Don Ramsdell, Police Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD). Mr. Ramsdell provided an update on the activities and responses to the issues at the NWDC, stating circumstances have evolved since the beginning of the demonstration and addressed the responses needed in regards to the safety of the NWDC employees, demonstration participants, Police Officers, and the property; steps taken to approach the issues; and introduced Shawn Gustason, Assistant Police Chief, TPD, and Chris Travis, Lieutenant, TPD. Mr. Gustason provided a background on the demonstration, and described recent changes in the demonstration area, challenges for the TPD, source of TPD resources to address the demonstration, and a recent incident. He stated the TPD does want to support the peaceful demonstrators' rights and allowed sunshades and structures for protection from the sun. He informed the Council Members that the TPD have been monitoring the area daily, there have been 45 police calls to the location since July 6, 2018, and described the reasons for the calls. Mr. Gustason stated Portland, Oregon has recently cleaned their encampment site near their detention center which has shifted the people to Tacoma, and described a few photos of the demonstration, noting the plan to safely move the blockade; and further described the photos, noting damages to the signs, sidewalks, the temporary fence used for a barricade, the officers on site, and the removal of a barricade. He indicated the violence escalated when more people arrived over the weekend, including damage to GEO Group employees' vehicles, use of a vehicle to block employees entering the facility, chaining the GEO Group gates shut and locking them, cutting power lines to a building in their transportation facility, and poured roofing nails across every entrance in the

roadway of GEO Group. He stated the TPD utilized their special response team and asked for mutual aid and used the Cooperative Cities special response team for their plan to safely take immediate action; described the clean-up process of personal property and trash left behind; and further described images of what was left behind at the site. Mr. Gustason concluded by describing the next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding sending the video to the Council Members to view at another time and who provided the photos. Discussion continued on the amount of people that are demonstrating safely and legally, if the demonstrators are still making noise after 9:00 p.m., if some of the demonstrators are local, the Cooperative Cities team, and approximately how many officers were on the scene last night.

Council Member Mello informed the Council Members there is an opportunity to sign the Stand with Working Families pledge, regarding the ability of our labor unions to be effective advocates and voices of working people in a workplace; the pledge allows policy makers to voice support for the importance of organized labor in the workplace to have a fair and healthy workplace for all individuals; and to proclaim support of practical items an employer who partners and respects labor unions can do, including access to labor representatives when hired, supporting systems that are agreeable around secure information, and how individuals can sign up and pay dues. He stated the pledge will be available on the tenth floor and will then be delivered to Alice Phillips, Chair, Joint Labor Committee.

Ms. Phillips thanked Council Member Mello for bringing the pledge forward, acknowledged the Mayor's signature on the pledge from the United States Conference of Mayors in Washington, D.C. and thanked the Council Members for their consideration.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [18-0866](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, July 26, 2018

Ms. Pauli stated there is one recognition, recognizing Linda McCrea, and there are no expected changes to tonight's agenda.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Ibsen moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Camarata, Ibsen, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Hunter and McCarthy

The Council convened to Executive Session at 1:25 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Deputy City Attorney Mike Smith were present.

The Executive Session was extended by 10 minutes at 1:35 p.m. and 1:45 p.m., and 5 minutes at 1:55 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk