



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, First Floor, Tacoma WA 98402

City Council Chambers

March 17, 2020

5:00 PM

The City is working diligently to address the threat posed by COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus). The City is following the guidance from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department to take all efforts to prevent the spread of this virus. In the interest of the safety and welfare of the public, the community, and our employees and to limit the spread of the virus, the City Council strongly urges that public participation at Council meetings be in written form. This includes Public Comment for those items on the agenda and Community Forum for items limited to matters over which the City Council has jurisdiction. Written comments may be submitted to cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org every Tuesday before 4:00 p.m. prior to that evening's City Council meeting. Comments will be compiled and sent to the City Council.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends that people over the age of 60 and people who have severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes, should stay at home as much as possible to avoid crowds. The City Council meetings are televised on Channel 12 within the Tacoma City limits and Channel 21 in Pierce County, and streamed live at tvtacoma.com or on Facebook Live at facebook.com/cityoftacoma.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

* * * * *

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to suspend Rule 1.E 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma to allow four Council Members to participate in tonight’s meeting telephonically.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to suspend Rule 1.E 1 and 2 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma to allow all members of the Council to attend all meetings remotely by telephone device for the duration of the March 12, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

Deputy Mayor Blocker and Council Members Hunter, McCarthy, and Ushka participated telephonically.

Council Member Walker arrived at 5:47 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Council Member Thoms.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

- 1. [20-0193](#) Minutes of the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, January 23, 2020.
- 2. [20-0194](#) Minutes of the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, February 13, 2020.
- 3. [20-0192](#) Minutes of the Human Services Commission, January 8, 2020.
- 4. [20-0204](#) Minutes of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, February 12, 2020.
- 5. [20-0205](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, October 2, 2019.
- 6. [20-0206](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, November 6, 2019.
- 7. [20-0207](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, November 20, 2019.
- 8. [20-0186](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board study session, January 22, 2020.
- 9. [20-0187](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board meeting, January 22, 2020.

* * * * *

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to confirm the City of Tacoma March 12, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus requested and approved by the City Manager and the Mayor of the City of Tacoma.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to confirm the Mayor's Emergency Rule No. 1 setting the maximum occupancy of the Council Chambers, not including Council and staff, at twenty-five (25) persons issued pursuant to the City of Tacoma's March 12, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

Mayor Woodards made a friendly amendment to change "twenty-five (25)" to "ten (10)". The friendly amendment was accepted by Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to confirm the Mayor's Emergency Rule No. 2 requiring the City of Tacoma's power, water, sanitary sewer, storm water, and solid waste utilities to postpone shutoffs for non-payment during the period of the emergency pursuant to the March 12, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to suspend the rules to add a Resolution, Resolution No. 40575 to tonight’s agenda, as Item 20A, relating to the Department of Public Utilities; approving the creation of an Emergency Assistance Program by the Department of Public Utilities during the period of the state of emergency declared by the City of Tacoma in response to COVID-19, in order to allow more households to qualify for assistance.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

CONSENT AGENDA

10. [20-0217](#) Minutes of the City Council special meeting, strategic planning work session, February 7, 2020.
11. [20-0173](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, February 11, 2020.
12. [20-0185](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, February 18, 2020.
13. [20-0224](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, February 25, 2020.
14. [20-0225](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, March 3, 2020.
15. [20-0216](#) Minutes of the Committee of the Whole special meeting, February 25, 2020.

RESOLUTIONS

16. [RES40569](#) A resolution setting Tuesday, March 31, 2020, upon completion of Regular Agenda Items, no earlier than 5:15 p.m., as the date for a public hearing by the City Council on the declaration of surplus and sale of approximately 4.74 acres of Tacoma Water property, located in the Bonney Lake vicinity of unincorporated Pierce County, to Nash Cascadia Verde LLC, for the amount of \$125,000.
[Greg Muller, Real Estate Officer; Scott Dewhirst, Water Superintendent]
17. [RES40570](#) A resolution setting Tuesday, April 28, 2020, upon completion of Regular Agenda Items, no earlier than 5:15 p.m., as the date for a public hearing by the City Council on the potential reauthorization and extension of the Tideflats Interim Regulations.
[Steve Atkinson, Principal Planner; Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services]

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 40569 and 40570.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution Nos. 40569 and 40570. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no proclamations, recognitions, presentations, or announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment began at 5:21 p.m.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Mitchell Shook, Advanced Stream, speaking on Resolution No. 40575.

Public Comment ended at 5:25 p.m.

REGULAR AGENDA

18. [20-0222](#) A motion may be considered to authorize the City’s full and final settlement of all claims against the City in the matter of Tacoma Life Properties, LLC v. City of Tacoma, Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 19-2-12930-7, relating to the appeal of the land use involving the proposed behavioral health hospital pursuant to the terms of Settlement Agreement on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to authorize the City’s full and final settlement of all claims against the City in the matter of Tacoma Life Properties, LLC v. City of Tacoma, Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 19-2-12930-7, relating to the appeal of the land use involving the proposed behavioral health hospital pursuant to the terms of Settlement Agreement on file in the City Clerk’s Office.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

APPOINTMENTS

19. [RES40571](#) A resolution appointing, reappointing, and reassigning individuals to the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and the Citizen Police Advisory Committee.
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to adopt Resolution No. 40571.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

PURCHASE RESOLUTIONS

20. [RES40572](#) A resolution awarding a contract to Quigg Bros., Inc., in the amount of \$822,775, plus applicable taxes, plus a 20 percent contingency, for a total of \$987,330, budgeted from the Surface Water Fund, to replenish a sediment cap at the Olympic View Resource Area site - Specification No. ES20-0004F.
[John Burk, P.E., Science and Engineering Division Manager;
Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Director, Environmental Services]

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to adopt Resolution No. 40572.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

RESOLUTIONS

- 20A. [RES40575](#) A resolution approving the creation of an Emergency Assistance Program by the Department of Public Utilities during the period of the state of emergency declared by the City of Tacoma in response to COVID-19, in order to allow more households to qualify for assistance.
[Jackie Flowers, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities]

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to adopt Resolution No. 40575.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Walker

21. [RES40573](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483, Water Pollution Control Unit, consisting of 52 budgeted full-time equivalent positions, retroactive to January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2022.

[Dylan Carlson, Senior Labor Relations Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to adopt Resolution No. 40573.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

Council Member Walker arrived here, at 5:47 p.m.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

22. [RES40574](#) A resolution expressing support of the *Protecting Community Television Act*, and calling on Congress to pass legislation, to reverse the Federal Communication Commission's recent order requiring that cable related, in-kind contributions required by local franchising authorities be considered a "franchise fee"; and urging all House members and Senators from Washington to cosponsor the *Protecting Community Television Act*.

[Jeff Lueders, Cable Communications and Franchise Services Manager; Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications Office]

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to adopt Resolution No. 40574.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

23. [ORD28662](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for the Solid Waste Collection Supervisor classification represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483, Supervisors' Unit. [Kari L. Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager; Gary Buchanan, Director, Human Resources]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28662. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

24. [ORD28663](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for employees represented by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483, Water Pollution Control Unit. [Kari L. Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager; Gary Buchanan, Director, Human Resources]

ACTION: Ordinance No. 28663 was set over for final reading next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to suspend Rule 5.A.13 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma to allow for a motion for reconsideration of the vote on Ordinance No. 28606, which was taken at the City Council meeting of December 17, 2019.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to reconsider the vote on Ordinance No. 28606, which was taken at the City Council meeting of December 17, 2019, regarding rezone File No. LU18-0301.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Beale.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE

25. [ORD28606](#) An ordinance reclassifying the property bounded by South 19th, South Proctor, South Madison, and South Durango Streets, from a C-1 General Neighborhood Commercial District and a T Transitional District to a R-4-L Low-Density Multiple-Family Dwelling District, to develop the Tacoma Behavioral Hospital. (Tacoma Life Properties, LLC; File No. LU18-0301)
[Jeff H. Capell, Hearing Examiner]

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28606. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Forum began at 5:55 p.m.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Mitchell Shook, Advanced Stream, speaking on telecommunication.
2. Mark Slater, resident, speaking on zoning.
3. Kit Burns, 1010 6th Avenue, speaking on community broadband.

Community Forum ended at 6:06 p.m.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli expressed her appreciation for City staff and introduced the Emergency Management staff, including Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD); Ute Scofield, General Government Emergency Director, TFD; and Courtney Rose, Public Utilities Emergency Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU).

Chief Green provided an update on the City's response and involvement regarding the COVID-19 emergency, including the Emergency Coordination Center being fully activated, joint collaboration between General Government and TPU, daily briefings, documenting action plans, implementing work-from-home practices, establishing a workgroup to create a County-wide strategy to address the unhoused, and working to establish a drive-through testing site in Tacoma.

Discussion ensued regarding the testing site, quarantine and isolation facilities, criteria for who receives testing, other testing options, a quarantine timeline, communication on testing, personal protection equipment (PPE), and plans for exposure for emergency responders.

City Manager Pauli provided an update regarding precautionary measures and administrative actions taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and answered questions from constituents.

Jackie Flowers, Director, TPU, provided an update on continued internet service.

Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), provided an update on what CED is doing to mitigate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the business community, including information gathering, a website of resources, planning for microloans, technical assistance for small business, removal of penalties related to business and occupation job tax credit, and due date adjustments.

Mayor Woodards provided information on the Economic Development Board.

Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided an update on how NCS can address current needs, including providing payment to landlords in the form of rental assistance, supporting existing service providers, expediting payments, providing additional assurance for future funding for existing and new providers, altering the application process, assisting shelter providers, responding to encampments and aiding in medical connections when needed, and extending outreach.

Discussion ensued regarding medical assistance to individuals in encampments, criteria for testing, PPE for service providers, setting up sheltering locations, and available resources for childcare.

City Manager Pauli reported that the City has temporarily suspended ticketing for overtime parking violations, and public access to services, such as permitting, will be closed but will continue remotely.

The Mayor and Council Members expressed appreciation and gratitude for staff and partners in providing support and services during this emergency and the importance of keeping communication lines open.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

There was no report.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk