



# City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

747 Market Street, First Floor, Tacoma WA 98402

City Council Chambers

March 24, 2020

5:00 PM

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**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. Written comments may be submitted to [cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org](mailto: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](http://tvtacoma.com) or on Facebook Live at [facebook.com/cityoftacoma](https://facebook.com/cityoftacoma).**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

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

All Council Members participated telephonically.

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**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker 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 and/or by other web or cloud based application or service for the duration of the March 12, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**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

**FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Council Member Hines.

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

In honor of those who are impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

**ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

- 1. [20-0208](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, December 4, 2019.
- 2. [20-0209](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, December 18, 2019.
- 3. [20-0210](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, January 15, 2020.
- 4. [20-0211](#) Minutes of the Planning Commission, February 5, 2020.
- 5. [20-0228](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board special meeting, February 4, 2020.

- 6. [20-0229](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board study session, February 12, 2020.
- 7. [20-0244](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board study session, February 26, 2020.
- 8. [20-0230](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board meeting, February 12, 2020.
- 9. [20-0245](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board meeting, February 26, 2020.
- 10. [20-0227](#) Minutes of the Tacoma Arts Commission, February 10, 2020.

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**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to confirm the Mayor’s Emergency Order dated March 18, 2020, cancelling the City Council regularly scheduled study sessions until further notice.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**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: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved, due to the March 12, 2020, Proclamation of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus, confirmed by the City Council on March 17, 2020, to postpone the City Manager’s annual performance review required by Tacoma City Charter Article III Section 3.1 to occur no later than October 30, 2020.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**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: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to suspend the rules to add an Ordinance, Ordinance No. 28664 to tonight’s agenda, as Item 16A, regarding the suspension of enforcement of Second Substitute Ordinance No. 28367 and Section 12.09.215 of the Municipal Code, entitled “Bring Your Own Bag”; and declaring an emergency, making necessary the passage of this ordinance effective immediately.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**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

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 11. [20-0247](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, February 4, 2020.
- 12. [20-0249](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, February 11, 2020.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

- 13. [RES40576](#) A resolution setting Tuesday, April 7, 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 proposed amendments to the 2019-2020 Annual Action Plan for Housing and Community Development projects.  
[Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

## **FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES**

- 14. [ORD28655](#) An ordinance vacating a portion of North Visscher Street, lying between North Park Way and North Park Avenue, to facilitate private improvements and landscaping.  
(Claire and Gabriel Van Guse; File No. 124.1400)  
[Jeff H. Capell, Hearing Examiner]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 40576 and final reading of Ordinance No. 28655.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 40576 and final reading of Ordinance No. 28655. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.**

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

**PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

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**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to suspend the rules and allow only written comments to be provided for the public comment and community forum portions of City Council meetings until the Proclamation of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 virus is terminated.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**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**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment began at 5:28 p.m.

No individuals addressed the City Council.

Public Comment ended at 5:28 p.m.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### RESOLUTIONS

15.     [RES40577](#)     A resolution authorizing the execution of a Multi-Family Housing Eight-Year Limited Property Tax Exemption Agreement with ADG MLK, LLC, for the development of 283 multi-family market-rate rental housing units and six live/work units, located at 1011 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, in the Downtown Regional Growth Center.  
[Debbie Bingham, Project Manager; Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40577.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**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

16.     [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: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28663. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:**

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

- 16A. [ORD28664](#) (First and Final Reading) An ordinance suspending enforcement of Second Substitute Ordinance No. 28367 and Section 12.09.215 of the Municipal Code, entitled “Bring Your Own Bag”; and declaring an emergency, making necessary the passage of this ordinance, and it’s taking effect immediately.  
[Mayor Woodards]

**ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28664. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:**

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

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

[20-0256](#) Update on the Cushman and Adams Substations Future Use Study.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli reported that the items that would have been heard during study session would still be brought before the City Council, and introduced Deputy City Manager Tadd Wille.

Deputy City Manager Wille provided an update on the draft Tacoma-Lakewood Regional Consolidated Plan for 2020-2024.

Clark Mather, Government Relations Officer, Tacoma Public Utilities, and Elliott Barnett, Senior Planner, Planning and Development Services, provided an update on the revised public engagement plan on the future of the Cushman and Adams Substations and the Future Use Study, including visioning workshops, the study area, policy framework, the Future Use Study process, engagement with social distancing, a schedule and milestones, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the ability to have a public meeting, surplusing the property, and the timeline.

City Manager Pauli reported that the number of positive COVID-19 cases has risen by 12 in Pierce County, nine of which were in the City of Tacoma.

## COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Woodards stated that the City Council would conduct special meetings remotely on each Friday, at 2:00 p.m., as needed, until the Proclamation of Emergency has been terminated. She further stated that the purpose of the meetings will be for staff to provide information and respond

to questions from the City Council regarding the status of the City's response to the COVID-19 virus.

Various Council Members expressed appreciation and support to staff and constituents during this time.

Mayor Woodards provided updates regarding innovative solutions in the community and the impacts of the Governor's recent announcements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 6:29 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk