



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers

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

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

December 13, 2022

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Briefing Items

1. [22-1384](#) Homelessness Strategy Update

At approximately 12:02 p.m., Allyson Griffith, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided opening remarks; introduced Caleb Carbone, Homeless Strategy Systems and Services Manager, NCS; and described the coordination between NCS, Tacoma Police Department, Public Works, and other staff. She then presented updates on the City's homelessness strategy, including an overview; the City's inclement weather response, noting additional capacity; and implementation of Tacoma Municipal Code Chapter 8.19, related to use of public property, noting information available online, and areas that have received sufficient notice. Carbone provided updates on shelter sites, noting the Forging Path Community that opened at Tacoma Rescue Mission in November 2022, the Freedom Project at The Brotherhood RISE Center that is expected to open in February 2023, and the safe parking location that is expected to open in January 2023; shelters in Tacoma, noting shelter types and capacity; and shelters in Pierce County, noting the status, types, locations, and number of units. He further reviewed previous, immediate, and short-term actions related to homeless strategy goals and objectives, including the goals of affordable housing, access to services and support, a shelter system that offers a safe and dignified experience, a continuum of tailored supports, and access to permanent and stable housing; and concluded with a review of next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding available shelter beds, noting capacity in Pierce County compared to inside the city limits of Tacoma, and

timelines for new locations in Pierce County to open; additional capacity at the Nativity House; timelines for temporary and emergency shelter locations; the Forging Path Community shelter, noting cleanup around the area, the new low barrier model, and how it is going; laundry facilities; the urban rest stop concept; flexibility in future contracting; substance abuse referrals and backlog; inclement and emergency weather response, noting cold weather and flooding; safe parking, noting the City's new site, types of vehicles allowed, services provided, the intake and referral process, options to expand to other locations, total need, locations that do not receive City funds, the Pierce County safe parking network, barriers to entry, and helping people keep their vehicles running; options to address illegal use of private property; appreciation for the presentation format and details; available beds compared to maximum capacity; rapid rehousing, noting funding and coordinating with Pierce County; support for families with children and people who are working; Pierce County funding availability; Aspen Court, noting the plan to transition from an emergency site to permanent supportive housing, coordination with the City of Lakewood, and the referral process; and appreciation for staff.

Other Items of Interest

2. [22-1385](#) Council Action Memorandum - 2023 Cancelled Council Meetings

Mayor Woodards presented a proposed resolution approving the cancellation of six regular City Council meetings in 2023, including requirements in the City Charter; the proposal to place the resolution on the December 20, 2022, meeting agenda; and the list of proposed meeting dates to be cancelled, noting January 17, March 28, May 30, July 5, September 5, and December 26, 2023.

3. [22-1392](#) Council Consideration Request - University of Washington Tacoma Homelessness Solutions Convening

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$20,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support community conversations about solutions to homelessness at the University of Washington Tacoma in 2023, including coordination, faculty and student input, and the proposal to place the resolution on the December 20, 2022, meeting agenda.

4. [22-1386](#) Council Consideration Request - Faith Community Audit

Mayor Woodards presented a CCR to allocate \$10,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support a faith community audit, noting delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic, coordination with Associated Ministries, and the proposal to place the resolution on the December 20, 2022, meeting agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the CCR; the importance of volunteering and social action; coordination with community groups; and the steering committee organized by Associated Ministries, noting responsibilities and membership.

5. [22-1387](#) Council Consideration Request - Tacoma Community House Ukrainian Refugee Support

Deputy Mayor Ushka presented a CCR to allocate \$20,000 in Council Contingency Funds to support the Tacoma Community House in assisting Ukrainian refugees with direct client specific assistance for essential needs and programs, noting the recent influx of refugees, Tacoma as a welcoming city, and support from Council Members Rumbaugh and Walker who have cosponsored the CCR.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for the Ukrainian community.

6. [22-1388](#) Council Consideration Request - International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Working Definition of Antisemitism

Council Member Rumbaugh presented a CCR for a resolution directing the City Manager to have the City of Tacoma's Office of Equity and Human Rights adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism for the City of Tacoma, noting the proposal to place the resolution on the December 20, 2022, meeting agenda.

7. [22-1389](#) Council Consideration Request - LeRoy Street Clock Repair

Council Member Rumbaugh presented a CCR to allocate up to \$35,000 in Council Contingency Funds for the restoration of the LeRoy street clock on Broadway in downtown Tacoma, including a history of the clock, the City's role, and the symbolic importance of the clock for the Jewish community in Tacoma.

8. [22-1390](#) Council Consideration Request - Links to Opportunity Project Office

Council Member Daniels presented a CCR to allocate \$10,000 of Council Contingency Funds to fund existing Public Works and Community and Economic Development staff to provide education and outreach for the Links to Opportunity project during the construction phase to communicate broadly, consistently, and in real time so the community can actively participate in meaningful dialog to address concerns and issues during construction, noting how the office will operate, how funds will be used, the process to date, and the difference between

the Tacoma Link light rail project and this work.

Discussion ensued regarding Sound Transit's investment, the importance of having the office in Tacoma, and coordination between departments.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

9. [22-1391](#) City Manager's Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, December 8, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, including a Compassionate Tacoma recognition for the Tacoma Fire Department, a presentation of the Greenroads Silver Certification Award, and a presentation on systems transformation, including highlights from the Planning and Development Services Department and the City Manager's Office racial equity action plans. She concluded by stating that one change is expected to tonight's agenda, for a proposed motion to consider as a substitute, Substitute Ordinance No. 28862, regarding pay and compensation; and that tonight's meeting includes a public hearing on the declaration of surplus and sale of Tacoma Water property, and Community Forum.

Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee and Pending Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to review the qualifications of a public employee and to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ushka

Closed Session - Class and Compensation

MOTION: Council Member Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ushka

Mayor Woodards stated that the Closed Session would take place after the study session adjourned.

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 1:37 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 2:06 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

The Closed Session was held after adjournment of the study session.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk