



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
September 20, 2022
12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Ushka called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 3 - Diaz, Hines and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Hines arrived at 12:02 p.m.

Council Member Diaz arrived at 12:03 p.m.

Mayor Woodards arrived at 12:16 p.m.

Mayor Woodards participated virtually.

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Council Member Hines arrived here, at 12:02 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [22-1026](#) Tideflats Alternatives Public Hearing Debrief

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services (PDS), presented a debrief on the public hearing held at the September 13, 2022, City Council meeting, for the proposed Tideflats Subarea Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) alternatives, including an agenda and purpose.

Council Member Diaz arrived here, at 12:03 p.m.

Atkinson continued presenting the public hearing debrief, including the proposed resolution confirming the future development scenarios to be studied in the EIS; the range of alternatives; the basis of the proposed alternatives, noting the planning framework, work plan, and community visioning; comments received, noting themes and characterization of

comments; and next steps.

Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 12:16 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the difference between an EIS and a health impact assessment, responsibility for the public health analysis, whether topics from the public comments are covered in the various alternatives, potential time or budget impacts of studying all four alternatives, long-term future uses of the Tideflats, environmental restoration and the Hylebos Waterway, potential amendments to land use, and impacts of zoning changes on existing uses and businesses.

2. [22-1029](#) South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District Moratorium

At approximately 12:28 p.m., Atkinson presented the proposed South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District (STGPD) moratorium, including an overview, noting the purpose for the City Council to consider the Planning Commission's (PC) recommendation for a moratorium and to provide direction on next steps; background; the City Council's direction to the PC; the PC process; the PC recommendation that a one-year moratorium is warranted; coordinating agencies and subject matter experts; and history of the STGPD zoning overlay from 1988 to present, noting prohibited uses and other standards for storage, stormwater, infiltration, spill prevention, and inspections.

Glen George, Water Supply Supervisor, Tacoma Water, outlined the South Tacoma aquifer system, including the South Tacoma wellfield, and Tacoma's groundwater sources. Scott Hallenberg, Operations Manager, Tacoma Water, further reviewed Tacoma's groundwater sources, including sampling and groundwater protection.

Esther Beaumier, Program Manager for Waste Management, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD), reviewed TPCHD's role, including the focus on business pollution prevention; permitted facilities in the STGPD; hazardous substance storage; and underground storage tanks (USTs), noting locations of open and closed TPCHD permits in the STGPD.

Merita Trohimovich, Principal Engineer, Environmental Services (ES), presented the City's Stormwater Management Program, including the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, the City's Stormwater Management Manual, and ES Directive ESD17-01 related to stormwater infiltration.

Chris Seaman, Principal Engineer, Tacoma Fire Department, described the role of the Fire Code, including applicability, common permits, monitoring, and location standards.

Atkinson continued by presenting the PC's conclusion and recommendation that the City Council consider enacting a moratorium for one year on permits within the STGPD for new and expansion of metal recycling, auto wrecking, vehicle service and repair, industrial vehicle service and repair, and new USTs. He concluded by reviewing other information that was considered, details of the recommendations, and a tentative schedule if the City Council moves forward with considering a moratorium.

Discussion ensued regarding community concerns, contamination and groundwater infiltration; status of violations; mitigation efforts; possible impacts of a moratorium; UST cleanup and replacement; the need for additional outreach, noting a lack of feedback from auto repair businesses; further review by the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee; Pierce County's NPDES permit and activities; the importance of reporting spills with the TacomaFIRST311 SeeClickFix program; impacts of delaying a moratorium, noting code updates and the PC Work Plan; and appreciation for staff and PC members.

Other Items of Interest

3. [22-1030](#) Rules of Procedure of the Council - Suggested Edits

City Attorney Bill Fosbre presented proposed revisions to the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma (Council Rules), including an overview, background, and issues. He continued by reviewing the proposed revisions, including changes to Rule 1, related to remote participation in meetings; changes to Rule 2, related to Council Member duties and expectations; changes to Rule 4, related to the order of business for regular business meetings, noting adding an Agenda Modifications header and revisions to various Consent Agenda items; changes to Rule 5, related to parliamentary procedures and motions; changes to Rule 9, related to public comment, noting the reduction of public comment to two minutes per person during Public Comment, combining Virtual Forum into Community Forum, and limiting the public forum to 60-minutes; changes Rule 16, related to the City Council vacancy process, noting an additional stage when there are more than ten applicants; minor revisions throughout for clarity, consistency, and formatting; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding current practices, tracking attendance, enforcing the Council Rules, expectations for Council Members to take

sufficient time to deliberate on topics, abstentions, comparisons with Robert's Rules of Order, time limits for public comments, hybrid meetings, preference that the presiding officer be someone who is attending in person, a request to consider each revision to the Council Rules as a separate motion, residency requirements, standing committee reports, time commitments, and next steps.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [22-1031](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 15, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming September 2022 as National Preparedness Month. She concluded by stating that motions may be considered on tonight's agenda for Ordinance No. 28831, regarding use of public property, including a substitute ordinance to add Aspen Court, and two motions to amend the ordinance related to penalties.

Other Items of Interest (Continued)

Council Member Hines stated that Mayor Woodards plans to bring an amendment forward at second reading of Ordinance No. 28831 to add areas within 200 feet of protected waters to the buffer area where it would be prohibited to camp or store personal belongings, including that the proposed amendment was drafted in consultation with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians; the definition of protected waters, noting it includes creeks, rivers, waterways, and shorelines; and similarities with critical areas in the Shoreline Management Act and Growth Management Act.

Council Member Blocker stated that he plans to bring two motions forward on tonight's agenda to amend Ordinance No. 28831; the intent of the first motion is to replace the misdemeanor offense with a civil infraction, lower the fines, and provide for a misdemeanor offense after three violations; the intent of the second motion is to reduce the fine and jail sentence; and addressing concerns about goals and effective methods related to illegal camping.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the proposed ordinance and revisions, safe parking and shelter capacity, protecting waterways, updated maps, implementation of civil infractions, tracking infractions, potential use of force, collections and impacts to credit histories, community services

offered by the court, postponing second reading of the ordinance until after the City Council receives updates on the Affordable Housing Action Strategy plan, effective dates, new shelter sites, next steps, and adding Aspen Court to the buffer area.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk