



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

March 03, 2015

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Walker

Council Member Walker arrived at 12:07 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [15-0209](#) Billboard Community Working Group Report

Mayor Strickland provided background information on the Community Working Group on Billboards and called on Brian Boudet, Planning and Development Services.

Council Member Walker arrived here, at 12:07 p.m.

Mr. Boudet reviewed the Community Working Group's mission, desired end date, and make-up of the 17-member group. Karen Reed, Working Group Facilitator, reviewed the group's report, including their focus to reach consensus on the major parameters of billboard regulations, conclusions, and process. She then reviewed billboard locations and zoning districts, and the current status of billboards in the City.

Steve Wambach, Working Group Co-Chair, reviewed how the group dealt with balancing stakeholder interests, shared interests and values with more than 80 percent consensus level support; and shared interests and values with consensus-level support between 60 and 80 percent. He then reviewed areas where billboards should be allowed, priority areas for removing billboards, areas to potentially allow billboards, and zoning districts where no agreement was reached to allow billboards.

Tricia DeOme, Working Group Co-Chair, stated if the zone recommendations were adopted 78 percent of billboards would be conforming, however all 308 non-conforming billboard faces would remain non-conforming for other reasons such as size and height. She then reviewed data for other requirements, including buffers, dispersal, size, height, lighting, and design standards. Ms. DeOme next reviewed three options identified by the group related to where billboards should be located, what they should look like, and how to achieve the recommendations. She then provided additional information related to the group's recommendations for other requirements, including lighting, buffers, dispersal, height, and other design issues. Ms. DeOme concluded by reviewing the group's plans for implementing their recommendations, tough issues that remain on the table, and conclusions.

Mr. Boudet requested guidance regarding next steps for billboards and stated the report is available at www.cityoftacoma.org/planning. He then provided information on available alternatives, potential impacts to property owners, and difficulties in reaching a reasonable solution for billboard owners and operators. Discussion ensued regarding the history of billboards in the City, the impact of relocating billboards, what the billboard landscape will look like in five years, mixed-use centers, and the impact of billboards on mixed-use centers. City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated next steps will include staff reviewing the Working Group's recommendations along with existing code language, having a conversation with Clear Channel, a review by the Planning Commission, and an update to the Council.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [15-0213](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, February 26, 2015

Mr. Broadnax stated at tonight's Council meeting there will be a proclamation proclaiming March 2015 as Women's History Month in the City of Tacoma, and a presentation of Tacoma Public Utilities' conservation incentives. He then stated there are no changes to the published agenda.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Boe moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)(b) to discuss labor negotiations, the session not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 9 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Executive Session - City Manager's Performance Review

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Boe moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the performance of the City Manager, the session not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 9 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Mayor Strickland stated there is no Committee of the Whole meeting today and the March 10, 2015 Council meeting has been cancelled.

The Council convened to Closed Session at 1:00 p.m.

The Closed Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 1:15 p.m. Chief Deputy City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session was extended for 45 minutes at 2:15 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended for 15 minutes at 3:00 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended for 15 minutes at 3:15 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk