



# City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 890 2715 0863

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89027150863](http://www.zoom.us/j/89027150863)

**September 15, 2020**

**5:00 PM**

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## CALL TO ORDER

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

## ROLL CALL

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

All Council Members participated virtually.

## FLAG SALUTE

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Blocker.

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

In honor of those who have lost their lives to or have been impacted by COVID-19 and systemic racism as well as Ms. Sarah Leyrer.

## ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1. [20-0565](#) Minutes of the Economic Development Committee special meeting, July 21, 2020.
2. [20-0566](#) Minutes of the Economic Development Committee, August 25, 2020.
3. [20-0567](#) Minutes of the Economic Development Committee special meeting, August 27, 2020.
4. [20-0579](#) Minutes of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, February 5, 2020.
5. [20-0580](#) Minutes of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, February 19, 2020.
6. [20-0581](#) Minutes of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, March 4, 2020.
7. [20-0560](#) Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma, July 22, 2020.

8. [20-0561](#) Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma, August 12, 2020.
9. [20-0562](#) Minutes of the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma, August 15, 2020.
10. [20-0587](#) Minutes of the Public Utility Board special meeting, August 26, 2020.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

11. [20-0583](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, July 7, 2020.
12. [20-0586](#) Minutes of the City Council study session, July 14, 2020.
13. [20-0563](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, July 28, 2020.
14. [20-0564](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, August 4, 2020.
15. [20-0578](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, August 11, 2020.
16. [20-0588](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, August 18, 2020.
17. [20-0589](#) Minutes of the City Council meeting, August 25, 2020.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

18. [RES40647](#) A resolution setting Tuesday, October 6, 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 for the potential reauthorization, extension, and modification of the Residential Infill Pilot Program, as codified in the Tacoma Municipal Code, Section 13.05.060.  
[Mesa Sherriff, Senior Planner; Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 40647.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to adopt the Consent Agenda, including Resolution No. 40647. The Consent Agenda was declared adopted.**

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

## **PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

19. [20-0584](#) Proclaiming September 12-20, 2020, as Welcoming Week.

Mayor Woodards proclaimed September 12-20, 2020, as Welcoming Week and presented the proclamation to Mr. Jefferson Mok and Ms. Rime Oujdi, members of the Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs.

20. [20-0585](#) Proclaiming September 15 through October 15, 2020, as Hispanic Heritage Month.

Mayor Woodards proclaimed September 15 through October 15, 2020, as Hispanic Heritage Month and presented the proclamation to Mr. Efrain Lopez, member of Latinx Unidos of the South Sound.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment began at 5:34 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received five written comments for Public Comment on Item Nos. 19 and 20, regarding Welcoming Week and Hispanic Heritage Month proclamations, and Resolution No. 40652, regarding an amendment to Rule 9 of the City Council Rules of Procedure.

Public Comment ended at 5:37 p.m.

## REGULAR AGENDA

### APPOINTMENTS

21. [RES40648](#) A resolution appointing individuals to the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board.  
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40648.**

**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

### RESOLUTIONS

22. [RES40649](#) A resolution designating the Wells R. Sears House, located at 3334 North Gove Street, as a City Landmark and placing said property on the Tacoma Register of Historic Places.  
[Reuben McKnight, Historic Preservation Officer; Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40649.**

**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

23. [RES40650](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of a Letter of Agreement with the Professional and Technical Employees Union, Local 17, regarding voluntary recognition of a classification to be titled Engineering Instrumentation Technician, Senior.  
[Dylan Carlson, Senior Labor Relations Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40650.**

**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

24. [RES40651](#) A resolution authorizing the execution of a Letter of Agreement with the City of Tacoma Washington, City and Pierce County Employees Local Number 120 of the Washington State Council of County and City Employees, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, regarding the pay range for the classification of Senior Buyer, effective January 1, 2020.  
[Dylan Carlson, Senior Labor Relations Manager; Bill Fosbre, City Attorney]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40651.**

**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

25.     [RES40652](#)     This is the first reading of a resolution amending Rule 9 of the *Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma* to increase opportunities for public feedback to the Tacoma City Council during the COVID-19 declaration of emergency and for the duration in which the Tacoma City Council holds virtual business meetings.  
[Council Member Thoms]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40652.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.**

**MOTION: Council Member Thoms moved to amend Resolution No. 40652, on page 3, lines 20 and 24, to strike “90 seconds” and insert “five minutes”.**

**SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Blocker.**

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried to amend Resolution No. 40652. 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 Rule 8.D of the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma to allow for one reading instead of two readings of this Resolution, as amended.**

**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

**ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The Resolution, as amended, was declared adopted.**

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

## FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

26. [ORD28690](#) (First and Final Reading) An ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of a Sewer Revenue Bond, in an amount not to exceed \$21 million, to evidence the City's obligations under a Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, for costs associated with repairs and improvements to the electrical distribution system at the Central Treatment Plant; approving and authorizing execution of the loan agreement and providing for the disposition of the proceeds of the loan, the delivery of the bond to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and the payment of costs of issuance of the bond; delegating the authority to approve the final terms of the bond and declaring an emergency, making necessary the passage of this ordinance, and becoming effective immediately.  
[Teresa Sedmak, City Treasurer; Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

**ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28690.**

**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

27. [ORD28691](#) 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 Professional and Technical Employees Union, Local 17, and the City of Tacoma Washington, City and Pierce County Employees Local Number 120 of the Washington State Council of County and City Employees, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, and changes in classification to reflect the organizational structure.  
[Kari L. Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager; Gary Buchanan, Director, Human Resources]

**ACTION: Ordinance No. 28691 was set over for final reading next week.**

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Forum began at 6:08 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received nine written comments for Community Forum, regarding City control of a railroad crossing, Tideflats Interim Regulations, the Tacoma Police Department (TPD), the City budget, education equity, the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC), large gatherings and events in public parks, and Tacoma Public Utilities' Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Talison Crosby, regarding the TPD, protests, homelessness, and the City budget.
2. Devin Rydel Kelly, regarding public comment formats, Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, the TPD, and the City budget.
3. Eileen Newton, regarding the SeaPort Sound Terminal, Tideflats Interim Regulations, body worn cameras, the TPD, homelessness, the NWIPC, and the City budget.
4. Josef Barlow-Farrar, regarding climate change, the SeaPort Sound Terminal, the Tideflats Interim Regulations, public comment formats, and net-zero carbon.
5. Morgan Nova, regarding Bennie Branch, Manuel Ellis's family, homelessness, and City Council leadership.
6. Dr. Jonathan Pottle, regarding Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis, Denver's Support Team Assisted Response program, the City budget, and the TPD.
7. Kathy Lawhon, regarding elections, Tacoma Protest Daily, protests, and body worn cameras.
8. Mariana, regarding Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, the TPD, the City budget, the Tideflats Interim Regulations, the SeaPort Sound Terminal, and climate change.
9. Eric, regarding the City budget, the NWIPC, transit fares in Tacoma, school resource officers (SROs), and Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families.
10. Elle, regarding City Council leadership, the TPD, systemic racism, and homelessness.
11. Anthony, regarding City Council leadership, the City budget, and Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families.
12. Anonymous speaker, regarding transformation in the City, the City budget, and the TPD.
13. Courtney Love, regarding Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis, the TPD, the City budget, and systemic racism.
14. Joseph Evans, regarding the TPD, body worn cameras, Bennie Branch and



- Manuel Ellis, and police reform.
15. Dylan Ruggeri, regarding Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, the City budget, homelessness, climate change, and the Tideflats Interim Regulations.
  16. Juan La Torre, regarding Hispanic Heritage Month, Washington State detention centers, Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, and the City budget.
  17. Lukas Barfield, regarding the TPD, the City budget, the City's Civil Rights Investigators, and SROs.
  18. Stacy Oaks, regarding threats and City Council leadership.
  19. Naomi Dickerson, regarding the TPD and the City budget.
  20. Ms. Burt, regarding the City budget.
  21. Courtney Stoker, regarding Comprehensive Life Resources, white supremacy, and protests.
  22. Jessica Campbell, regarding Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, the TPD, the City budget, and protests.
  23. Yvonne McCarty, regarding the SeaPort Sound Terminal, the Tideflats Interim Regulations, and the location of the Northeast Tacoma recycle drop-off facility.
  24. Micki Chernyk, regarding SROs, Resolution No. 40622, body worn cameras, and the NWIPC.
  25. Laurie Arnold, regarding Manuel Ellis, the TPD, and City Council leadership.
  26. Gerrit Nyland, regarding the City's Civil Rights Investigators and the City budget.
  27. Leah Smillie, regarding the Tideflats Interim Regulations, the NWIPC, the City budget, the TPD, public comment formats, and City Council leadership.
  28. Alexa Folsom-Hill, regarding public comment formats, Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, the TPD, SROs, and the City budget.
  29. Jamie, regarding public comment formats and City Council leadership.
  30. Kayla Quinn, regarding Resolution No. 40622, the City budget, and the TPD.
  31. Randee, regarding the TPD, the NWIPC, and public comment formats.
  32. Michaela, regarding public comment formats, protests, Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, the TPD, City Council leadership, and the NWIPC.
  33. Andrea Pulis, regarding Bennie Branch and Manuel Ellis's families, the City budget, and the TPD.
  34. Barbara Church, regarding public comment formats and protests.

Community Forum ended at 7:29 p.m.

## **REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli announced that there will be an air quality relief

site established at the Eastside Community Center for residents that need shelter during the air quality emergency; the site can accommodate up to 50 people at any given time, will be operational for up to two weeks or until the air quality has improved, is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and will be staffed by community partners, including Comprehensive Life Resources, Recovery Cafe, and Valeo Vocation. She stated the City will be providing bottled water to the site, community members who wish to donate are encouraged to drop off prepackaged non-perishable snacks, the site will be following the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Departments recommendations for social distancing and mask wearing, the Pierce County Medical Reserve Corps will be providing COVID-19 screening before entry, and janitorial services have been hired to provide consistent cleaning. City Manager Pauli concluded by further stating the Homeless Outreach Team has been reaching out to known encampments in the City to provide N95 masks to assist those individuals that are out in the unhealthy air.

**COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee

Council Member McCarthy, Chair of the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee, reported at the July 22, 2020, special meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the Transportation Improvement Plan; at the August 26, 2020, special meeting, the Committee received a presentation on the history of mixed-use centers and master planning; and at the September 9, 2020, meeting, the Committee received presentations on urban food security through trees and urban agriculture on public lands and an update on the Safe Routes to School Action Plan. He concluded by stating the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 23, 2020, at 4:30 p.m., through Zoom, and will include presentations on the Environmental Action Plan progress report and proposals for building and development code and community engagement enhancements.

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Council Member Hunter stated it is important to recognize the value of immigrant and foreign-born residents to the City and to have the proclamations read in Spanish earlier in the meeting. She stated that, along with conversations about systemic racism and social justice, the City should work toward increasing translation services and providing an inclusive system that allows the community to participate in public meetings. She expressed appreciation for speakers' comments and requests, and noted that information and updates on the City's systems transformation work can be found at [cityoftacoma.org/transform](http://cityoftacoma.org/transform), while updates on police cases can be found by searching "City of Tacoma use of force". Council Member Hunter concluded

by stating she attended a meeting held at Kandle Park and voiced her appreciation for the efforts and input of the people in attendance.

Council Member Ushka thanked attendees for providing comments, restated her commitment to the City's anti-racist work, stated that Council Members are dedicating time and learning together, and noted that progress requires ongoing and hard work. She suggested the City further share and get input on the City Council's Legislative Agenda and City Manager's weekly reports on the City's transformation process. She encouraged mask wearing, noted that COVID-19 cases were lower than in July, and that air quality was poor due to wildfire smoke. She further stated it is Suicide Prevention Month and suggested community members reach out to others, noting that COVID-19 has disconnected everyone. She concluded by expressing gratitude for all first responders for their work with COVID-19 and fires and reminded everyone to get a flu shot.

Council Member Walker thanked attendees for providing comments and suggested programs for the City Council to consider as the City works on systems transformation; stated her commitment to work leading towards an anti-racist City; and highlighted the weekly reports from City staff on transformation work, where the City is headed, and how it will get there. She further stated she will conduct coffee chats on Zoom as part of her personal commitment to increase dialogue with the community. She noted that City staff will provide an update on the body worn camera timeline and that the City Manager has provided an update on housing. She concluded by inquiring about the Community's Police Advisory Committee, requesting additional community input on the budget, and noting that the City Council will receive a draft of the budget on October 6, 2020.

Council Member Beale thanked attendees for providing comments and discussed the "de-fund the police" movement and appropriate response. He noted that the City has hired 21CP Solutions, who provided a briefing on outreach methods, which he believes are needed to fairly and objectively evaluate what the community is asking for. He further acknowledged the current climate crisis, and inquired about Revised Code of Washington 35.18.110 and language in the City Charter that addresses the City Manager form of government and City employees. He concluded by urging everyone who attended to stay involved in the process.

Council Member Thoms thanked attendees for providing comments, stated that anti-racist transformation is not a solitary endeavor by any one Council Member but the work of the entire City Council, and that he is eager and ready to begin the work. He further stated that the public comment period is important as a safe place to have these conversations; and stated he was pleased that several things brought up by speakers can be put into action,

such as weekly feedback on transformation efforts, more funding for Neighborhood and Community Services, changing funding for the Homeless Outreach Team, creating a review board, and having survey feedback by district. Council Member Thoms concluded by encouraging more people to participate in the budget exercise when it is reopened, and stating that the City needs to create an environment where people feel respected, cared for, and treated as everyone wants to be treated.

Council Member Hines announced that the West End Neighborhood Council is leading a litter clean-up event on Sunday, September 20, 2020, at four sites throughout District 1, and to check their Facebook page and website for more information. He thanked attendees for providing comments; described how, as a teacher, seeing barriers that students face has formed his views; and further discussed that the meaning of a safe community should be part of a community conversation because it covers a full range of topics, including police, housing, jobs, and education. Council Member Hines concluded by inquiring whether public input would be included in the search for a new Police Chief, agreeing with Council Member Ushka's comments that his commitment goes beyond meetings, and inviting community members to contact him with any concerns or topics they would like to discuss.

Council Member McCarthy expressed appreciation for a robust Community Forum, announced in relation to Suicide Prevention Month that suicide cases are up in the community, and provided a phone number that people can call for help. He further acknowledged institutional racism in the City, White privilege, implicit bias and racism in policing against the Black community across the nation and in the City, the reckless and unnecessary deaths of Black men and people of color at the hands of the police, and that many community members do not trust the police. He stated support for the reformation and transformation of the TPD and the entire City organization as outlined in Resolution No. 40622; justice for victims of police brutality; working to ensure every family in the City feels safe in Tacoma; and discussed steps such as implementation of the "8 Can't Wait" policies, investing in body worn cameras, changing how public safety calls are responded to, implementing independent investigations of the use of deadly force, and revising union contracts related to police officer discipline and termination. He concluded by stating his commitment to this work and to be an ally to the community as well as those who wear the police uniform, and pledged support to victims of crime in the City.

Deputy Mayor Blocker thanked community members for their passion and stated that everyone is committed to this work, though they may have different perspectives, outlooks, and ideas; and further stated that the work regarding racial justice and transformation is expensive and the City has limited resources to transform Tacoma into a city that is safe for all

residents. He stated he is committed to working with community members to help them figure out who to contact for different issues, and listed examples of issues that prevents the City Council from taking action. He concluded by reiterating that the Mayor, City Council, and City staff are committed to making real change; everyone recognizes that racial disparities exist; and there is a need for systemic change, more resources to address homelessness, and faster, more effective, and efficient ways to address environmental issues.

Mayor Woodards thanked everyone for participating and sharing their thoughts; and stated the City Council believes in the work that they are doing and understands that transformation must happen. She reminded everyone that the City Council has been working on community-centered leadership and that more information will be available in the next few weeks. Mayor Woodards concluded by asking everyone to be compassionate, wear their masks, be safe, and take care of themselves.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk