



# City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

January 14, 2020

12:00 PM

---

## Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

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

Item No. 2 was addressed before Item No. 1.

## Briefing Items

2. [20-0022](#) Firearms and Ammunition Tax (Ordinance No. 28624) Administrative Timeline

At approximately 12:12 p.m., Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, presented the administrative timeline for the Firearms and Ammunition Tax per Ordinance No. 28624, including an overview of the ordinance, timeline of events, and recommendations and options for meeting the various ordinance requirements.

Discussion ensued regarding suggested workgroup participants; how to apply the tax; factors to include on the proposed tax report for Council; anticipating future impacts on existing retailers and their employees; requirements to review best practices and gun buyback programs; whether analysis should be completed by an outside consultant, student, or internal staff; balancing viewpoints from various groups; gun violence reduction outcomes; estimated revenue generation; focus group makeup and facilitator options; providing a presentation at a City Council Standing Committee meeting on or near the required date of February 4, 2020; and staff plans to provide the report to the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, with a copy to the full City Council.

1. [20-0017](#) Commercial Office Space Incentive Legislation

At approximately 12:41 p.m., Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development, presented legislation related to commercial office space incentives, including a legislative history; program goals; program elements, noting incentive options, statutory requirements, initial considerations for application and approval process criteria, the potential development areas, and an example project timeline; implementation, noting City and other jurisdiction requirements, essential process partners, and market factors; next steps; and a timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding measurements and benchmarks; implementing the new program; proposed development areas; opportunities to partner with Pierce County on Downtown properties; suggested process partners; equity related to proposed incentive areas; assessing available properties; Tacoma's role in the State legislation; sales tax options; construction costs compared to commercial rent rates; reimbursement for renovation of existing buildings; implementing and tracking goals related to family wage jobs, sustainability, and transit; building size criteria and limitations; gathering feedback for the legislature; and getting future updates.

## Other Items of Interest

3. [20-0019](#) Council Consideration Request - Resolution to Express Support for the National League of Cities' "Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda"

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request in support of the National League of Cities' "Leading Together 2020 Cities Agenda", for next week's meeting, and stated Council Member Ushka and Deputy Mayor Blocker have also provided support.

Mayor Woodards stated that all Council Committee assignments have been made for 2020 and will be acted on at tonight's Council meeting.

## Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [20-0016](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, January 9, 2020

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that the City has received a referendum petition related to Ordinance No. 28650 for the Rainier Connect franchise agreement, and explained the process and requirements moving forward.

Discussion ensued regarding requirements related to the referendum form, required signatures and timeline, and status of the ordinance until the outcome of the election.

City Manager Pauli further stated tonight's agenda has one ceremonial proclaiming January 2020 as Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness Month, and one proposed amendment to Resolution No. 40537, related to Council Committee assignments.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:24 p.m..

---

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

---

Doris Sorum, City Clerk