



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

December 12, 2017

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Thoms called the joint study session to order at 12:12 p.m.

Present: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Walker Lee

Absent: 1 - Mayor Strickland

Public Utility Board Members Present: 4 - Patterson, Flint, Trudnowski, and Larkin

Public Utility Board Member Absent: 1 - Jones

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

Joint Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Joint Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed two hours.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Walker Lee

Absent: 1 - Mayor Strickland

The City Council and the Public Utility Board convened to Joint Executive Session at 12:17 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Chief Deputy City Attorney Chris Bacha; and Kari Vander Stoep, K&L Gates,

were present.

The Joint Executive Session was extended by 13 minutes at 2:17 p.m. and 5 minutes at 2:30 p.m.

The Joint Executive Session and study session concluded and the regular City Council study session reconvened at 2:35 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

Other Items of Interest

1. [17-1315](#) Council Consideration Request - Supporting the 2018 Season of the Tacoma Refugee Choir

Council Member Campbell presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$20,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund in support of the Tacoma Refugee Choir, to help with their community engagement in 2018.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for promoting the Deportation Defense Subfund, clarification on who they are, future plans of the choir, and the intent of the CCR.

2. [17-1334](#) A Letter to Senators and Representatives

Council Member Mello stated Council Member McCarthy and he attended an open house hosted by the YWCA Pierce County and learned about an affordable housing project, financing a 55-unit affordable housing complex, and requested other Council Members to sign onto a letter to State Senators and Representatives, then explained the letter and the urgency of support for the Housing Trust Fund be approved in the capital budget by January 17, 2018.

Discussion ensued regarding the capital budget timeline and the due date for signatures.

3. [17-1335](#) Proposed Amendments - Citizens' Forum

Council Member Walker Lee shared a National League of Cities article on the First Amendment and presented three different options to amend the previously proposed resolution regarding Citizens' Forum, including originally proposed resolution with minor revisions; suspending first three Citizens' Forums in 2018, then holding five forums in each Council District, and remaining four forums can be held at City Council Meetings; and

cancelling the first Citizens' Forum in January to establish an agreement with the Center for Dialog and Resolution in efforts to improve the Citizens' Forum format. She stated her intent is to bring one of the options forward to the full City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for holding at least one Citizens' Forum in a different language, changing the Citizens' Forum name, transparency, better enforcement of the existing rule, retaining the second Tuesday language, the Center for Dialog and Resolution's position and its relationship with the City, and creating a better way to dialog with citizens.

4. [17-1336](#) Proposed Substitute Ordinance - Green Jobs

Council Member Campbell presented a proposed substitute to Ordinance No. 28481, to add a tax credit for green jobs created within the City and noted Council Member Lonergan brought forward the original ordinance initially. Council Member Lonergan provided background information on Ordinance No. 28481, including current tax credit legislation for creating jobs. Council Member Campbell stated green jobs are jobs in businesses that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources and these goods and services are sold to customers, including research and development, installation, and maintenance services, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of existing green jobs in the City and tax credit amount.

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Council Member Campbell requested to move Item No. 25, Ordinance No. 28475, on tonight's agenda to the December 19, 2017 City Council Meeting for more time for evaluation and consideration.

Council Member McCarthy shared his concerns for Ordinance No. 28476 regarding billboards.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [17-1312](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, December 7, 2017

City Manager Pauli stated there are no ceremonials, and several changes to

tonight's agenda, including the continuation of and potential amendments Ordinance No. 28475, a substitute ordinance for Ordinance No. 28481, and one of the proposed amendments to the Citizens' Forum proposed resolution.

Discussion ensued regarding the order of business for tonight's agenda.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Walker Lee

Absent: 1 - Mayor Strickland

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:46 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session was extended by 3 minutes at 2:56 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:59 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk