



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

October 29, 2024

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 9 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Sadalge, Scott, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Briefing Items

1. [24-1162](#) Proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget - Tacoma Venues and Events and Internal Services
[Adam Cook, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events; Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Adam Cook, Director, Tacoma Venues and Events (TVE), provided opening remarks and shared upcoming events.

The study session recessed 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 12:11 p.m.

Cook reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 TVE biennial budget including an agenda; department overview; financial overview; major accomplishments, noting anniversaries, events, and economic impact; revenues; funded requests, and capital improvements; and 2025-2026 services and major initiatives, noting expense management and General Fund obligations, community support and cultural access, infrastructure improvements, and repairs.

Discussion ensued regarding previous events, resident arts and culture organization support, consultant master plans, using local vendors, relationship with Cheney Stadium, similarities with other municipalities, market size and regional event spaces, logistics of ice rinks, external funding, approximate cost of total renovations, public facilities districts, General Fund obligations, and the FIFA World Cup impact on Tacoma.

Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager, reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 biennial budget for internal service departments, including an agenda; department and offices overview; definition of internal services; financial overview, noting the Internal Services Fund, and cybersecurity. Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance, reviewed major accomplishments, noting bond upgrades and employee training. Amy Clancy, Director, Media and Communications Office, reviewed City services prioritizing belief and trust, and equity, noting language access and digital communications. Cherullo and Chris Bacha, City Attorney, reviewed risk management, litigation and strategic risks, claim for damages, and public records requests. Daniel Key, Director, Information Technology, reviewed infrastructure and systems maintenance, noting cybersecurity, system complexity, and fleet vehicle replacement. Shelby Fritz, Director, Human Resources, reviewed people and culture, noting employee retention and compensation. Laurie Hardie, Director, Office of Safety, concluded with employee safety programs.

Discussion ensued regarding internships, automation of public records requests, external funding, liability costs, support for outward facing departments, natural disasters, reserve funding, and areas within internal services.

2. [24-1163](#)

2025 Legislative Agenda

[Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer; Alex MacBain, Senior Government Affairs Advisor, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 1:51 p.m., Sonja Hallum, Chief Government Affairs Officer, City Manager's Office (CMO), introduced Andrea Roper and Alex MacBain, Senior Government Affairs Advisors, CMO; and Briahna Murray, State Lobbyist and Partner, and Amina Abdalla, State Lobbyist, Gordon Thomas Honeywell. MacBain presented the 2025 legislative agenda, including state policy positions, noting priorities areas around safety, jobs, access, health, and other policy position areas; General Government (GG) suggested state policy priorities, funding, and potential additions; and GG capital priority requests.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding Pierce County zoning standards for homelessness services, trash and graffiti removal, infrastructure improvement funding, working with the State Legislature, statewide competitive funding opportunities, property sales tax, capital funding requests, how requests tie together, tiered priority levels, tax levies, and supporting local organizations and priorities.

Other Items of Interest

3. [24-1164](#) Council Consideration Request - Urban Wood Reuse Program Assessment and Action Strategy
[Deputy Mayor Hines]

Deputy Mayor Hines presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$20,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support an urban wood reuse program assessment and action strategy, to help enable the Urban Forestry team to set up the first formal program within the city, noting the City would contract the work with Cambium Carbon, a unique and innovative company that evaluates and assists in the creation of local regenerative wood supply chains. He concluded by stating that the Solid Waste Management Division intends to match the Council Contingency Fund with an additional \$20,000 to cover the full cost of the work, as it aligns with their goals for waste reduction; and the resolution is expected on the November 5, 2024, meeting agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding wood entering our landfill, preserving large historic trees in the community, revenue opportunity, and adding additional items to a reuse cycle.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [24-1165](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, October 24, 2024
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]

Deputy City Manager Hyun Kim stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Tuesday, October 29, 2024, as Student Government Day, and Native American Heritage Month will be proclaimed next week. He concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda, and tonight's meeting includes four public hearings, the first public hearing on the proposed 2025-2026 Biennial Operating Budget, the proposed 2025-2026 Capital Budget and 2025-2030 Capital Facilities Program, the proposed Ad Valorem and Emergency Medical Services tax levies for 2025, and the Transportation Benefit District Budget and Spending Plan.


Council Member Bushnell stated he will bring forward an additional amendment to the Home and Tacoma ordinance to adjust the zoning from Urban Residential-1 to Urban Residential-3 for the South 72nd Street and South Alaska Street area.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



for Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Nicole Emery, City Clerk