



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

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

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

December 07, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:03 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 12:05 p.m.

Council Member Beale arrived at 12:06 p.m.

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:13 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

6. [21-1208](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Mike Ake, Interim Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented an update on the Manuel Ellis investigation, including completion of the Washington State Patrol (WSP) investigation, the open request for WSP records, status of the administrative investigations for two of the officers, and the timeline for his review.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here, at 12:05 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding staff's work to date, and the process and timeline to complete the remaining investigations.

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

1. [21-1203](#) Age Friendly Action Plan

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Bucoda Warren, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Media and Communications Office, presented the Age Friendly Action Plan, including an overview, background, issues, AARP's 8 Domains of Livability, the Age Friendly Advisory Committee, and recommended focus areas.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:13 p.m.

Mr. Warren continued with a review of next steps, noting that the City Council will take action on Resolution No. 40882, regarding the Age Friendly Action Plan Plan, at tonight's meeting. Council Member Hunter provided information about staff support, collaboration with community groups, implicit and explicit biases and ageism, the increased percentage of the population that is over 65 years of age, the importance of proactively providing resources to the aging community, oversight by the Office of Equity and Human Rights (OEHR), and a request for Council Member input.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding appreciation for Council Member Hunters' leadership on this issue; appreciation for staff; interaction and overlap with other plans and initiatives; incorporating pedestrian safety, sidewalks, and crosswalks in the Plan; the process to review and update the Plan; positive impacts to the community; focusing service to the community's youngest and oldest members; and starting the work.

2. [21-1204](#) Commissions Boards and Committees

At approximately 12:25 p.m., Lisa Woods, Director, OEHR, provided opening remarks on equitable engagement in the City's committees, boards, and commissions (CBCs), and introduced Ted Richardson, Management Fellow, City Manager's Office, and Lucas Smiraldo, Senior Policy Analyst, OEHR. Together, they presented on CBCs, including an outline; alignment with City Council goals; CBC improvement project background, noting objectives, and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; initial recommendations; the current project scope, noting which CBCs report to City Council Standing Committees, the total number of positions, and supporting departments; internal work that is in progress; diversity and demographics related to race and Council District; work with the community that is in progress, noting the formation of a community group to discuss diversity, cross collaboration and information sharing, and updates to the CBC application; advanced racial equity training, noting a pilot training workshop; feedback from the pilot training; and potential next steps, noting staffing, tracking demographics, cross-departmental teams, and exploring ways to fill vacant seats.

Discussion ensued regarding representation of various Council Districts, ways to improve interaction and communication with Standing Committees, improving recruitment and engagement efforts, the role of Council Members in community outreach, working with stakeholders, a request to compare current diversity of CBC members to City demographics, setting appropriate expectations for the different CBCs, membership on CBCs as a pathway to community leadership, equity training related to age, work that can begin now, and the importance of credibility and trust in connecting with community members.

3. [21-1205](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 12:58 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented an update on systems transformation, including new items, noting a call for applicants to the Heal the Heart Core Coordinating Team's transformation teams; TPD Chief recruitment, noting City Council consideration of the appointment of Avery Moore as Chief at tonight's meeting; the TPD information technology assessment; and the transformation timeline and history.

Other Items of Interest

4. [21-1206](#) Council Consideration Request - Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group

Council Member Thoms presented a Council Consideration Request for a resolution responding to recommendations from the Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group (TODAG) presentation at the November 23, 2021, study session, noting the request to continue TODAG through 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding TODAG membership, noting a suggestion to add language to the draft resolution that the two new positions will focus on increasing diversity of TODAG's membership; the timeline to make changes to TODAG's reporting protocols and processes; and the group's focus on the Tacoma Dome District.

5. [21-1207](#) Options for 2022 Cancelled Council Meetings

Mayor Woodards presented options for cancelled City Council meetings in 2022, including requirements in the City Charter, the list of proposed cancelled meeting dates, and a request for feedback from Council Members.

Discussion ensued regarding clarifying the proposed dates for cancelled meetings, scheduling for the National League of Cities conference, and options to change the schedule during the year.

6. [21-1208](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

This item was addressed earlier in the study session.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

7. [21-1209](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, December 2, 2021

City Manager Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, a recognition of the Tacoma Rescue Mission, and a presentation of the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Best Special Project Award. She concluded by stating that several changes may be considered at tonight's meeting, including a motion to amend Ordinance No. 28781, to add conditions to the proposed reclassification of 5517 North 33rd Street; a motion to continue Ordinance No. 28795, relating to the Compensation Plan, to December 14, 2021; a motion to remove Ordinance No. 28796, relating to the Compensation Plan, from the agenda at the request of staff; a motion to amend Ordinance No. 28793, relating to the Home in Tacoma Project, Phase 1, with the combined amendments as considered at the December 1, 2021, special meeting; and a motion to amend Ordinance No. 28798, relating to the Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption (MFTE) Program.

Discussion ensued regarding the MFTE ordinance amendment, noting the purpose to delay implementation in Neighborhood Commercial Nodes, and another possible amendment related to the area family income rate for 20-year MFTEs; a request that language for all the proposed amendments be provided to Council Members; Ordinance No. 28800, entitled "Pathways to Shelter and Stability"; and amendments to the Home in Tacoma Project ordinance that will be considered during the Phase 2 process, noting a request from the North Slope neighborhood.

Closed Session - Labor Strategy

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) to discuss labor strategy, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Beale and McCarthy

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

The Closed Session was held after adjournment of the study session.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk