



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

February 03, 2015

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Woodards

Council Member Woodards arrived at 12:10 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [15-0094](#) Legislative Update

Randy Lewis, Government Relations Officer, provided a status update on Washington State Legislature bills of interest to the City related to the Bay Street speed camera and local revitalization financing.

Council Member Woodards arrived here, at 12:10 p.m.

Mr. Lewis continued reviewing bills of interest related to a Transportation Benefit District fee increase, an emergency medical services levy increase, local transportation, Sound Transit funding for Sound Transit 3, transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft, and water projects. He then reviewed upcoming dates on the legislative calendar and reviewed a list of medical and recreational marijuana-related bills to date. Mr. Lewis next provided and discussed a document created by a Washington State Senate Committee comparing current medical and recreational marijuana law with proposed legislation from Senator Ann Rivers and Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles. Discussion ensued regarding the difference between the bills, what is likely to occur to pare down the list of proposed marijuana-related legislation, marijuana tax structure, collective gardens, preemption of local regulation in several bills, and the status of bills relating to minimum wage and paid sick leave.

2. [15-0093](#) Federal Government Affairs Update by Lobbyist Len Simon

Alisa O'Hanlon, Government Relations, introduced Len Simon and noted the importance of Mr. Simon serving Tacoma from Washington D.C. Mr. Simon stated his job is to provide information to the City, prepare meeting schedules for Council Members traveling to Washington D.C., provide grant opportunities, keep communications going with the congressional delegation, and provide some liaison with some of the national organizations with which the City is involved. Mayor Strickland stated the Tacoma Link is part of President Barack Obama's 2016 budget proposal and thanked Len Simon, his staff, and Sound Transit. Mr. Simon provided highlights from the President's budget related to defense, transportation, grants, policing, and education. He stated the City will receive a longer written brief of the budget on Friday. Mr. Simon then provided an overview on programs and initiatives from the President and in Congress, including immigration, community policing, the My Brother's Keeper initiative, apprenticeships, the Choice Neighborhood program, net neutrality, education, and infrastructure. He then provided information on Tacoma's congressional delegation and their seats and ranks within committees. Mr. Simon concluded by discussing the National League of Cities and encouraged everyone to attend in March. Discussion ensued regarding broadband regulations.

3. [15-0095](#) Recreational Marijuana Regulations Recommendations

Brian Boudet, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided an overview of action taken by Council to-date to approve and extend the interim regulations on recreational marijuana. Elliott Barnett, PDS, reviewed Initiative 502 and the state licensing process. He then discussed the interim regulations approved by Council in effect through May 16, 2015, including, but not limited to, licensing, size, production limit, hours, security, taxes, labeling, location, buffering, and development standards. Mr. Barnett stated the City has four approved processing locations with 35 pending, and seven licenses issued for retail sale with the last one anticipated soon.

Mr. Barnett briefly reviewed the Planning Commission's review process and schedule, noting a draft proposal of the Commission's permanent regulations was shared with the public in November 2014. He noted public input was received on several key issues, such as unlicensed medical marijuana, the City's review process, reduced retail hours, production and processing in light industrial zoning areas, and buffers and retail distribution on recreational marijuana. Mr. Barnett then reviewed the Commission's recommendations, including to retain the interim provisions, clarify applicability, and expand the areas for production, processing, and urban horticulture. He stated other actions recommended by the Commission are improving the City's review

process for marijuana businesses, improving notification, and advocating for state action. Mr. Barnett stated next steps include the public hearing tonight, with first and final reading planned for February 10 and 17, 2015, with a final effective date of March 2, 2015. Discussion ensued regarding the review process, public notification and costs, zoning and location for production and processing of recreational marijuana, and transparency along pedestrian streets.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [15-0096](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, January 29, 2015

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there are two proclamations tonight, proclaiming February as Black History Month in the City of Tacoma, and proclaiming the week of February 7-14 as Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week. He stated there are two public hearings tonight, the first on the Notice of Intent to petition for annexation and the second on recreational marijuana regulations.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Boe moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, the session not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Lonergan.

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

Ayes: 9 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Mayor Strickland stated the Council would take a recess before the beginning of the Executive Session.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:15 p.m. City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli and Chief Deputy City Attorney Bill Fosbre were present.

The Executive Session was extended by 15 minutes at 2:45 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:00 p.m.

Mayor Strickland called on City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli to provide clarification on a Notice of Intent to petition for annexation of property. Ms. Pauli stated last week the City received a Notice of Intent to petition for annexation of the concerning the portion of the Point Ruston redevelopment site lying within the City of Ruston, noting the Council set a public meeting as required by state law for tonight's Council meeting. She then stated the meeting was scheduled in the same way a public hearing is held where members of the public can speak and will be limited to up to three minutes per person. Ms. Pauli noted the Council can have as much discussion with the petitioner as they need and there is no time limit for the discussion. She then clarified the approval of Resolution No. 39110 scheduled for tonight's Council meeting is acknowledging receipt of the petition and is not approving the annexation. Ms. Pauli concluded by noting if Resolution No. 39110 is adopted tonight the City Council of the City of Ruston must accept the petition for annexation in order to proceed.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk