



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569
November 21, 2023
12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Diaz and Ushka

Council Member Diaz arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [23-1119](#) Community Safety Action Strategy Update

At approximately 12:00 p.m., Jacques Colon, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of Strategy, provided opening remarks on the Community Safety Action Strategy update.

Council Member Diaz arrived here, at 12:01 p.m.

Colon introduced Gabe Moaalii, Strategic Initiatives Program Coordinator, Office of Strategy, and Cathy Satava, Management Fellow, City Manager's Office; and provided a brief overview, background and context. Moaalii presented what the Community Safety Action Strategy is, what has been heard from the community so far, and introduced Lisel Petis, Senior Fellow, R Street. Petis provided what the City has already heard from partners and R Street, and additional themes from R Street analysis. Together Moaalii, Satava, and Colon continued with a summary of the strategy, including goals to co-create healthy places and neighborhoods, invest in people and prevention, respond effectively and with care, and promote healing and repair; next steps, noting communications, engagement, writing document, and implementation; and partnership with Tacoma Community College and University of Washington Tacoma.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff and partners, what safety

means to community members, next steps, partnership with the community, use of data and future plans, tracking success, goals, plans for communication and alignment with engagement, promoting healing and repair, and helping survivors.

2. [23-1120](#) Home in Tacoma Phase 2 Project Update

At approximately 12:53 p.m., Brian Boudet, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided an overview of Home in Tacoma Phase 2; revised project schedule, noting zoning adjustments, permit partnership, and site plan testing; and introduced Elliott Barnett and Alyssa Torrez, Senior Planners, PDS, and Tyler Bump, Partner/Project Director, ECONorthwest. Barnett presented objectives; housing types; building design standards, noting placement, access, parking, size, and articulation; ownership, affordability, and accessibility actions, noting unit lot subdivisions, visibility requirement, and expanding the multi-family tax exemption (MFTE); land use changes, noting non-residential uses, special needs housing, and short term rentals; bonuses program observations, noting middle housing is financially feasible and will increase affordability; and public benefit affordability targeting, noting state law parameters. Bump continued with the baseline feasibility analysis, including key findings, noting increase in density equals greater feasibility than single family; pro forma method; residual land value; unit type and high market price; results of high market area; key findings on Urban Residential (UR)-1, UR-2, and UR-3; and results in UR-3. Torrez concluded with the engagement strategy.

Discussion ensued regarding the drop in average median income for six-plex, noting updates to the Municipal Code to incentivize these units; cost to develop; impact fees; development size; MFTE expansion; bonus programs; residual land value, noting soft costs; building codes; results in high market areas; state requirements; dividing property; infrastructure costs; and bonuses.

Other Items of Interest

3. [23-1127](#) Council Consideration Request - An Ordinance to Amend Sections 8.12.060 and 17.02.140 of the Municipal Code Relating to Animal Noise

Council Member Hines presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) for support to advance an ordinance amending sections 17.02.140 and 8.12.060 of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC), relating to animal noise, to require an increase in the number of people submitting complaints to Animal Control and Compliance to three or more before enforcement of an unlawful action; and to remove the criminal misdemeanor charge for public disturbance and public nuisance noise made by an animal. He stated that as

written, the animal noise complaint noted in the TMC can be reported by one person and that Animal Control and Compliance receives an average of 635 individual animal noise complaints per year, however around 70 percent of these complaints are ultimately deemed invalid and driven by punitive and escalatory behavior among individual neighbors, rather than genuine unlawful animal noise concerns. He concluded by stating the proposed amendments will help ensure that Animal Control and Compliance resources are used more effectively in our community and that this ordinance will not impact Animal Control and Compliance's ability to evaluate or enforce animal cruelty cases.

Discussion ensued regarding how often this gets enforced; clarification on separate calls versus separate individual calls; estimation on how much this will save Animal Control from dealing with neighborly disputes; clarification on types of animals, noting chickens; and appreciation to staff.

4. [23-1128](#) Council Consideration Request - An Ordinance to Amend Title 17 of the Municipal Code to Ban Cat Declawing

Council Member Hines presented a CCR for support to advance an ordinance adding a section to Title 17 of the TMC establishing a ban on performing a procedure that results in the partial or complete declawing of a cat in the City of Tacoma, except when conducted by a licensed veterinarian for a therapeutic purpose. He stated "therapeutic purpose" means a medically necessary procedure to address an existing or recurring infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the claws, nail bed, or toe bone, that jeopardizes the cat's health; and does not include a procedure performed for a cosmetic or aesthetic purpose or to make the cat more convenient to keep or handle. He concluded that the ordinance imposes a civil fine of up to \$250, not including any statutory assessments, for the person conducting the declawing in violation of this ordinance in the City of Tacoma.

4A. [23-1155](#) Council Consideration Request - Enhanced Services Facilities Emergency Moratorium

Council Member Bushnell presented a CCR for support for an emergency ordinance adopting a moratorium pursuant to Revised Code of Washington 36.70A.390 and TMC 13.05.030.E on applications for new or expanded enhanced service facilities; setting a date for a public hearing; adopting findings of fact; and declaring an emergency. He stated an emergency exists because accepting new applications or approving development permits for enhanced service facilities within the City prior to establishing appropriate zoning and development standards may be harmful to the public health, safety and welfare. He concluded that this proposal establishes a moratorium prohibiting the siting of enhanced service facilities and is intended to provide

adequate time to establish a work plan, including broad public participation, necessary for identifying appropriate zoning and development standards for siting the Essential Public Facility (ESF) consistent with adopted Comprehensive Plan policies.

Discussion ensued regarding the fiscal impact, noting the impact on other projects and prioritization; geographical location and length of moratorium; definition of ESF; options besides moratorium, noting the ten-year Comprehensive Plan policies; State zoning requirements; permitting processes; safety concerns; over-concentration of ESF, noting District No. 3 and Hilltop; next steps; community feedback; equity and lack of services in certain districts; funding; current development or projects; substance abuse facilities and mental health facilities; cadence and timeline; green spaces and transit; burdening the jail systems; requirements and regulations; interim regulation; and work plan.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [23-1121](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 16, 2023

Acting City Manager Hyun Kim stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Saturday, November 25, 2023, as International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Woman, and Sunday, December 10, 2023, as Human Rights Day, and that there are three modifications to tonight's agenda, to amend the Assessment Roll for Local Improvement District No. 8642 to correct the public hearing date, moving Resolution No. 41298 from the consent agenda to the regular agenda, and the public hearing will go before the first reading of ordinances. He concluded by stating tonight's meeting includes two public hearings, one on the proposed Ad Valorem and Emergency Medical Services Tax Levies and the other on the 2023-2024 Biennial Operating Budget and the 2023-2024 Capital Budget.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Walker moved to convene to an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Ushka

The City Council convened to executive session at 3:22 p.m.
Interim City Attorney Chris Bacha was present.

The executive session was extended by 15 minutes at 3:35 p.m.

The executive session concluded, and the study session reconvened at 3:50 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:51 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Nicole Emery, City Clerk