



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

February 22, 2022

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [22-0212](#) GIS Redistricting

At approximately 12:02 p.m., Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office, provided opening remarks on Geographic Information System (GIS) data and redistricting, and introduced Christina Chelf, GIS Services Supervisor, Information Technology. Together, they presented on redistricting City Council districts using GIS data, including an agenda; objectives; background, noting how the census data is organized, and Tacoma's other boundaries; changes since the 2012 census, noting the Manitou Potential Annexation Area, and population increase around the City; and the redistricting process, noting a definition of redistricting, guidelines, Tacoma's criteria, target populations for 2020, and considerations. They further presented the three proposed redistricting scenarios, including what each scenario prioritizes, changes, and deviation from the target population; the boundary change from South Orchard Street to State Route 16 for all scenarios; a summary; and a timeline, noting engagement and outreach, City Council input, and the deadline to finalize the map by November 15, 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's extended timeline to complete the redistricting process, how other cities handled redistricting, concerns about splitting business districts between two City Council districts, a goal to have relatively straight boundary lines, how Council Members can contribute to

the process, public awareness and education, alternatives to the scenarios presented, avoiding major changes, and a request for the number of residents that would change districts under different proposals.

2. [22-0213](#) Home in Tacoma Project Phase 2 Update

At approximately 12:37 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS), provided opening remarks on the Home in Tacoma Project Phase 2 process, including goals and past work by the City Council, Planning Commission, and staff; and introduced Elliott Barnett, Senior Planner, PDS. Mr. Barnett presented an update on the Phase 2 process, including today's objectives; history, noting City Council adoption of the Home in Tacoma Phase 1 package on December 7, 2021, and information available online at cityoftacoma.org/homeintacoma; the needs related to housing affordability and other goals; the relationship to other proposals in the Affordable Housing Action Strategy; the Phase 1 planning and engagement process; Phase 1 vision and policy; the concept of low-scale and mid-scale residential; the adopted low-scale and mid-scale residential maps; neighborhood design and scale compatibility; missing middle housing; Washington State legislative action; the Phase 2 process to implement Tacoma's new housing growth vision and policies, noting a tentative timeline; engagement objectives; and topics for discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding housing cost burdens; the relationship between housing and transportation; Council Member and committee roles and opportunities for involvement; community engagement and education, noting language and access barriers, renters, and underrepresented groups; broader affordable housing issues; infrastructure impacts; green spaces and trees; providing opportunities for homeownership; past and future coordination with the Planning Commission, Human Rights Commission, and other committees, boards, and commissions; providing clear information about what the Home in Tacoma Project is about; the timeline for public outreach and meetings; and the goal to include as many people as possible in conversations.

Other Items of Interest

3. [22-0214](#) Council Consideration Request - Seed Internships

Council Member Walker presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$31,000 of City Council Contingency Funds to support the Degrees of Change Seed Internship, including the goal to fund the full or partial costs to five or more Tacoma-based small businesses or non-profits of

hosting interns, alignment with City Council goals, workforce development, providing local opportunities at anchor institutions and small businesses, Seed’s role in administering the program, remaining Council Contingency Funds available, the paid internships, and appreciation to staff.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the request and Seed internship program, paid internships, the cohort model, positive impacts on students and families, and a suggestion that participants present to the City Council at the end of their internships.

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Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks about the process to appoint a Municipal Court Judge due to a recent vacancy, noting that Judge Dwayne Christopher has accepted an appointment to the Pierce County District Court; and introduced City Attorney Bill Fosbre. Mr. Fosbre presented information on the position, including the Municipal Court’s relationship with the Pierce County District Court; that the City can establish its own process to fill vacancies; the last time the City Council made an appointment in 1994; the recommendation to appoint a current Court Commissioner, who would not run for election; and next steps, noting an executive session and City Council action in the coming weeks.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the previous process; the requirement for a new judge to be elected in the next regular election; the timeline; and the types of issues heard by the Municipal Court.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 4. [22-0216](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, February 17, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda, and that no changes are expected to the agenda. She concluded by reminding everyone that Virtual Forum will be held after tonight’s meeting.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk