



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

April 27, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Blocker called the study session to order at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Thoms and Ushka

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:27 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0412](#) Vision Zero

At approximately 12:04 p.m. Jennifer Kammerzell, Principal Engineer, Public Works, presented an update on the Vision Zero program, including the scope, noting the equity lens, community engagement plan, assessment of collision data, assessment of existing policies, programs, and practices, goals and strategies, and funding opportunities; and the outreach timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding staffing, the community ambassador approach, what elements will be included in the final plan, high-risk areas, roadway design and planning, a possible timeline for the study and future legislation, project priorities and funding, core principles, the Transportation Master Plan update process, community involvement, the Safe Routes to School program, and driver education.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:27 p.m.

2. [21-0413](#) Fossil Fuel Study and Tidelands and Industrial Land Regulations

At approximately 12:27 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services (PDS) provided opening remarks and introduced Anna Petersen, Chair, Planning Commission; Jana Magoon, Planning Manager, PDS; Jason Hennessey, Senior Associate, and Jay Shih, Associate, BERK Consulting; and Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney. Mr. Atkinson presented the Fossil Fuel Study and proposed Tidelands and Industrial Land Regulations, including background, noting the existing Tidelands Interim Regulations in effect since 2017, and direction for further review by the Planning Commission per Ordinance No. 28696; the Planning Commission process; public engagement efforts, noting methods, participants in the listening session, and general types of comments received; the scope of work; Planning Commission recommendation areas, noting public notification, conversion of industrial lands, residential encroachment, and siting of potentially high-risk or high-impact industrial uses; the overall recommendation, including items to be addressed in the Subarea Plan or other processes; and information on Conditional Use Permits (CUPs). Ms. Magoon further reviewed recommendations related to CUPs. Mr. Hennessey provided an update on the Fossil Fuel Study, noting the tasks, methodology, and findings. Mr. Atkinson concluded with a review of next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the scope and possible implications of the proposed regulations; the relationship between the Tidelands Interim Regulations and the proposed non-interim regulations; community and stakeholder feedback; CUP criteria, processes, and appeals; a request for additional presentations on the Fossil Fuel Study; impacts of current and future state and federal legislation; the City's regulatory authority related to land use, commerce, fuels, and rail traffic; the Planning Commission process; inconsistencies between policies and regulations; definitions; options for future amendments; other review mechanisms, including State Environmental Policy Act review and Shoreline Master Program regulations; current and expected demands; gas stations; renewable energy businesses; and clarifying which uses are desirable or should be permitted outright.

3. [21-0414](#) Homelessness Update

At approximately 2:37 p.m., Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, presented an update on homeless services, including updates on temporary hygiene stations, garbage collection, and security services; an overview of the five-year homelessness strategy and the mitigation and stabilization site assessment; the homelessness strategy

engagement timeline; and outreach and location analysis related to the temporary mitigation and stabilization site.

Discussion ensued regarding Washington State Department of Transportation management of a site along I-705, lessons learned, calls for service, the importance of providing information to community groups, City Council questions and concerns, providing clarity about the time commitment and scope for the temporary site, administrative decisions and the City Council's role, supportive services for drug and alcohol addiction, housing barriers and options, unmanaged encampments, alternative sites, a suggestion to the idea to establish multiple sites, community impacts and concerns, and next steps.

Other Items of Interest

4. [21-0415](#) Council Consideration Request - Multi-Family Housing Tax Exemptions and Equity Index

Council Member Hines presented a Council Consideration Request for an ordinance to suspend new applications for the eight-year Multi-Family Property Tax Exemption (MFTE) in mixed-use centers designated as having "very high" opportunity based on the City's Equity Index, noting the MFTE program history, factors in the Equity index, the goal of the proposed ordinance, and related Washington State legislation.

Discussion ensued regarding whether to place a hold on all eight-year MFTE applications, the Equity Index tool, justification for restricting the program in certain areas, possible impacts on housing development and affordable housing, and the possibility of a new 20-year exemption.

5. [21-0416](#) Council Consideration Request - Fireman's Park

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request for a resolution to rename Fireman's Park, located at 801 "A" Street, to Firefighters' Park, noting changes to the City's policy on place names and name changes per Resolution No. 40408, delay of the original request due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the review process, and a goal for the resolution to be placed on the May 4, 2021, agenda to align with International Firefighters' Day.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [21-0417](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, April 22, 2021

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated she will present the systems transformation update during tonight's meeting, that there are no ceremonials on tonight's agenda, and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

Executive Session - Reviewing the Performance of a Public Employee

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g), to review the performance of a public employee, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms

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

Ayes: 7 - Beale, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Ushka

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 4:05 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 4:42 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk