



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Council Chambers  
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192  
Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569  
**May 10, 2022**  
**12:00 PM**

---

### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Blocker, Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Council Members Daniels and McCarthy participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [22-0545](#) South Sound 911 Services Overview

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Deborah Grady, Executive Director, South Sound 911 (SS911), provided opening remarks and introduced Julie Door, Board of Directors Chair, SS911. Together, they presented an overview of SS911, including the SS911 agency offices; history from 2011 to present; the new facility; the Board of Directors, noting bylaws, elections, committees; the agency's status as a Public Development Authority; operations and support services, noting call taking and dispatch, the Records Department, and technical services; budget and finance, including 2022 revenues by source, and 2022 expenditures by division; personnel and recruitment; community relations; community involvement; and the future of SS911.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns from residents who feel they do not get a good response when calling 911, protocols, community education and outreach, rising call volumes, non-emergency calls, how different agencies use SS911 the system, recruitment and staffing, the new SS911 facility, call pending and delayed responses, the importance of staff training and retaining quality employees, call volumes compared with other dispatch agencies, career opportunities with SS911, and an invitation for Council Members to tour the SS911 facility and reach out with questions.

2. [22-0546](#) House America

At approximately 12:54 p.m., Felicia Medlen, Housing Division Manager, Community and Economic Development, introduced Margaret Salazar, Regional Administrator, and Gary Gant, Washington State Field Office Director, United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Salazar presented on HUD's House America program, including background, noting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and HUD's effort to address the nation's homelessness crisis; and goals related to re-housing and unit creation. Gant reviewed how leaders can participate, federal partners in HUD and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, key community partners, House America events and offerings, key resources, local resources, and additional contact information. Medlen concluded with a summary of local resources, funding sources, and staff's recommended goal to create 96 new housing units.

Discussion ensued regarding the new housing unit goals, defining projects and priorities, other funding sources and programs, how different programs interact, the difference between Housing Authority vouchers and creating new units, the Multi-Family Tax Exemption Program, the requirement for permanent affordable housing units, impacts on City staff and other program work, and appreciation for Housing and Urban Development staff for helping the City make the best use of available resources.

## Other Items of Interest

4. [22-0548](#) Council Consideration Request - House America

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request for a resolution declaring the City's commitment to ensure all residents have a safe and affordable place to live by joining House America, which will be placed on the May 17, 2022, City Council meeting agenda for action.

Discussion ensued regarding the value of this program and creating affordable housing for those who need it.

## Briefing Items - continued

3. [22-0547](#) Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program  
Draft Annual Amendments

At approximately 1:24 p.m., Jennifer Kammerzell, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works (PW), presented the Six-Year Comprehensive

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) draft annual amendments, including an overview; background; issues, noting projects that have been added and removed; and review of added projects, noting the I-5 crossing study assessment, and the Manitou Elementary Safe Routes to Schools projects. Chris Storey, Principal Engineer, PW, continued presenting on added projects, including East 64th Street from McKinley Avenue to Portland Avenue Phase II, Prairie Line Trail Phase 2 and Water Flume Line Trail Phase 3, and the Puyallup Avenue corridor projects. Kammerzell concluded by reviewing the health, equity, and sustainability analysis, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the City’s relationship with Metro Parks Tacoma; review by the Infrastructure, Planning, and Sustainability Committee; grant funding and what makes projects competitive; appreciation for staff; repairing residential streets, noting the lack of grant funding and the goal of the Streets Initiative; prioritizing street projects; street improvements that include curb and gutter; and the importance of streets and sidewalks on neighborhoods.

**Other Items of Interest - continued**

- 4. [22-0548](#) Council Consideration Request - House America

This item was addressed earlier in the study session.

**Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports.

\* \* \* \* \*

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli responded to earlier Council Member questions by stating that staff from the Office of Management and Budget will be meeting with Council Members to discuss projects and budgets in June. She further stated that the Media and Communications Office is working with SS911 on an education campaign.

**Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

- 5. [22-0549](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, May 5, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are three ceremonials on tonight’s meeting agenda, proclaiming May 15-21, 2022, as National

Public Works Week; proclaiming May 2022 as Hunger Awareness Month; and a presentation regarding systems transformation, including highlights from the Finance Department's racial equity action plan. She concluded by stating that changes are expected to tonight's agenda, including that the Compassionate Tacoma recognition will be rescheduled; a motion may be considered to continue Resolution No. 40970, regarding a Letter of Agreement with the Tacoma Police Union, to a date to be determined; and a motion may be considered to introduce as a substitute, Substitute Resolution No. 40955, regarding shipping containers and electric fences.

## **Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee**

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Ushka moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to review the qualifications of a public employee, not to exceed 45 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Blocker, Bushnell, Hines, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Daniels

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:05 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended by ten minutes at 3:04 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:06 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

---

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

---

Doris Sorum, City Clerk