



## City of Tacoma

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Council Member John Hines  
*Position 1*

Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Mayor Woodards and Members of the City Council,

The Government Performance and Finance Committee (GPFC) of the City Council approved the following recommendations today regarding a return to in-person public meetings for your consideration:

- Effective Wednesday, February 23, 2022, City Council and the Public Utility Board shall have the option to hold public meetings in hybrid format to include:
  - City Council meetings
  - Study Session meetings
  - Council Retreat meetings
  - Public Utility Board meetings
- The City Manager/Public Utilities Director shall work in coordination with Emergency Management to establish appropriate protocols to mitigate the potential spread of COVID-19 at the public meetings.
- The Mayor and Council shall monitor national COVID-19 trends, including new variants, and when needed, discuss at Study Session whether to return to virtual-only meetings or remain in hybrid format. Any Council Member or Public Utility Board Member may request the topic be discussed or revisited at a public meeting.

The following public meetings shall remain in virtual-only format:

- Standing Council Committees
- Committees, Boards, and Commissions

This conversation is occurring now for the following reasons:

1. COVID-19 cases are declining and trending downwards;
2. Council Members are beginning to conduct Council business in-person so there appears to be a desire to meet as an elected body; and
3. Other jurisdictions are beginning to return to in-person meetings with the option of attending virtually (hybrid format).

On September 21 and October 5, 2021, GPFC approved proposed guidelines to potentially allow certain Study Sessions to be done in hybrid format as directed by Emergency Rule No. 4 instated on August 19, 2021. Emergency Rule No. 4 states:

“Effective August 19, 2021, City Council and Public Utility Board study sessions and business meetings, and any other public meetings of the City of Tacoma, will be held in virtual format only. I am also directing the Government Performance and Finance Committee (“GPFC”) to develop proposed guidelines to potentially allow certain study sessions to be done in hybrid format. The guidelines should be presented to the City Council by the end of September and must be consistent with current COVID-19 guidelines and staff safety protocols.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Hines', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

John Hines, Chair, Government Performance and Finance Committee