



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**March 1, 2022**

**12:00 PM**

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**747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Council Chambers**

### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 7 - Blocker, Bushnell, Hines, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - Daniels and Rumbaugh

Council Member Daniels arrived at 1:15 p.m.

Council Member Blocker participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [22-0260](#) Sound Transit Update

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks regarding updates from Sound Transit (ST), including availability of ST's annual report; significant projects in Tacoma, noting the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension (HTLE), the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE), and the South Tacoma Station access improvements; and City Council priorities. Andrew Austin, Government and Community Relations Manager, ST, presented an update on key regional ST projects, including an overview; and agency updates, noting regional investments related to the ST3 regional transit system plan and in the South Sound area. Madeleine Greathouse, Project Director, ST, provided updates on the HTLE construction project, including the current project status; and remaining work, noting specific work on Stadium Way, the Stadium District, Hilltop, and the new light rail vehicle. Curvie Hawkins, Project Development Director, ST, provided updates on the TDLE construction project, including an overview, engagement in 2022, the Portland Avenue station options, the Interstate 5 (I-5) Portland Avenue underpass, and next steps. Zac Eskenazi, High Capacity Transit Development Manager, ST, provided updates on the South Tacoma Station access improvements project, including an overview, potential improvements and

possible alternatives, and community engagement.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Member Walker's appointment to the ST Board of Directors; relief for businesses along the HTLE corridor; consideration of changes to fares, noting the idea of free fares for youth; pedestrian access; coordination with other groups and committees; new stations, noting timing for alignment decisions, lighting, safety, and landscaping; options for a pedestrian bridge over I-5; multimodal connections for transit; ridership levels and COVID-19 impacts; new light rail cars; ideas for community engagement; and the process for naming stations and cars.

2. [22-0262](#) Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department COVID Response

At approximately 12:51 p.m., Dr. Anthony Chen, Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department (TPCHD), presented on the TPCHD COVID-19 response, including an agenda; response priorities; and events and partnerships from 2020 through 2022.

The study session recessed at 1:05 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Council Member Daniels arrived here, at 1:15 p.m.

Dr. Chen continued by further reviewing events and partnerships in 2022; COVID-19 response funding; how the changing environment drives costs; work that needs to continue, noting outbreak investigations, testing, isolation and quarantine, epidemiology and data, communications, community engagement, response management and operations, and COVID-19 vaccine clinics; estimated costs for the public health response, noting funding sources and the estimated shortfall; and the need for continued City support.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for TPCHD staff and all public health professionals; the factors and response strategies during the height of the pandemic compared to current and future responses; the percent of the population that is vaccinated; ways to manage public health costs and identify funding resources; the unique partnership between Pierce County and the City that formed TPCHD; and possible impacts to TPCHD operations.

3. [22-0268](#) Tidy-Up Tacoma Update

At approximately 1:56 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks regarding the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative, including community concerns about the condition of streets, parks, and open spaces. Kurtis Kingsolver,

Director, Public Works (PW), presented an overview of the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative, including background on the 2021 effort, noting locations, and the departments and agencies involved; and work done by PW, noting business districts, gateway signs, and coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), reviewed work done by NCS, including graffiti abatement on private property. Geoff Smyth, Assistant Director, Environmental Services (ES), reviewed work done by ES, including business district and neighborhood cleanups, and street sweeping. Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), reviewed work done by CED, including partnerships with the Cross District Association and LitterFree253 on events, recruitment, and support for cleanup efforts; and partnership with the Office of Arts and Cultural Vitality on public art and murals, traffic control boxes, and removing graffiti. Tanisha Jumper, Director, Media and Communications Office (MCO), reviewed work done by MCO, including communication, noting a new webpage at [cityoftacoma.org/tidyup](http://cityoftacoma.org/tidyup), translations, reports, public service announcements, social media, weekly updates, and press releases; and the number of people reached during the campaign. Together, they provided details for the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative projects planned during 2022, including business districts, gateway signs, WSDOT coordination, rapid graffiti removal, and additional staff and a vehicle to handle blight; increasing the street sweeping fleet and coordination; volunteer-led commercial area cleanups; refreshing and replacing community art; a new creative window protection service; and updated communication items.

Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget, concluded by reviewing financial considerations, including existing, new ongoing, and one-time resources; and future funding to be considered in the 2023-2024 biennial budget development process.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for volunteers City staff; funding for staff and vehicles to handle blight; coordination with WSDOT for roadside cleanup and traffic control; trail and park maintenance and safety; no-cost graffiti removal services and supplies; methods to request service via 311 and the Call-2-Haul program; Tacoma Public Utilities property maintenance and funding; addressing the reasons and sources of illegal dumping; education and outreach, noting communicating with customers, the EnviroChallenge and Urban Green programs, surveys, publications, TV Tacoma broadcasts, and other marketing tools; enforcement and cost recovery options; the need for more services outside business districts, noting past neighborhood cleanups; issues along the borders between the City and Pierce County; opportunities to help volunteers who want to do their own cleanups, noting free disposal and coordination with other programs; and additional contacts and resources.

4. [22-0265](#) City Manager's Performance Review Evaluation Process

This item was not addressed.

## Other Items of Interest

5. [22-0263](#) Council Rules and Procedures Review

Mayor Woodards stated the Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma (City Council Rules and Procedures) must be reviewed due to the shift to a hybrid meeting format as restrictions related to COVID-19 are lifted, outdated procedures related to telephonic attendance, and limitations for remote attendance; and referred the topic to the Government Performance and Finance (GPF) Committee, noting the goal for the GPF Committee to make recommendations by September 1, 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding approval of changes by resolution.

5a. [22-0612](#) Resolution expressing support for Tacoma's Sister City in Brovary, Ukraine

Mayor Woodards stated she plans to bring a walk-on resolution forward on tonight's meeting agenda in support of Tacoma's Sister City of Brovary, Ukraine, noting the relationship between Tacoma and Brovary, a community vigil that was held last night, showing support, and the plan to deliver translated copies of the resolution to Tacoma's Slavic Christian Center and to the City of Brovary.

Discussion ensued regarding a request from the Tacoma Refugee Choir to receive a copy of the resolution.

5b. [22-0613](#) Council Consideration Request - 2022 Daffodil Parade

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$20,000 of City Council Contingency Funds for expenses related to traffic control devices and services of the annual Daffodil Parade, which she will bring forward on next week's meeting agenda. She stated that the City transitioned to a new competitive process for special event funding, the organization was not aware and so did not apply, but they will be encouraged to follow the application process in future years. She concluded by stating that one of this year's Daffodil Princesses is also a member of the Mayor's Youth Commission of Tacoma.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [22-0266](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, February 24, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that there is one ceremonial on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming March 2022 as Red Cross Month; and that a motion is expected to add a resolution to the agenda in support of Tacoma's Sister City of Brovary, Ukraine.

## Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation, and 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)(i) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to discuss pending and potential litigation and 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, Daniels, Hines, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Rumbaugh

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 3:25 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre; Chris Bacha, Chief Deputy City Attorney; and Tom Morrill, Chief Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, were present.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 4:06 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk