



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Center for Urban Waters - Commencement Bay Conference Room
326 East "D" Street, Tacoma, WA 98421

February 10, 2023

9:45 AM

Special Meeting - City Council Workshop

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Woodards called the special meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Mayor Woodards stated that we gratefully honor and acknowledge that we rest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup People where they make their home and speak the Lushootseed language.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: 1 - Walker

Deputy Mayor Walker arrived at 10:33 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment began at 10:03 a.m.

No individuals addressed the City Council.

Public Comment ended at 10:04 a.m.

WELCOME AND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks and introduced Jacques Colon, Chief Strategy Officer, Office of Strategy. Colon reviewed the goals for the day, including highlights from 2022; socioeconomic and environmental factors to consider for action taken in 2023; and policy, platform, and partnership actions. He concluded by facilitating icebreaker activities.

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Deputy Mayor Walker arrived here, at 10:33 a.m.

BRIEFING ITEMS**1. [23-0123](#) 2022 City of Tacoma Highlights**

At approximately 10:41 a.m., Colon provided an overview of the documents that will be used during the workshop; background on Tacoma 2025, noting 24 indicators, issues, and the top six priority areas; and reviewed the objectives and measurements of success for the priority areas of safety, housing and homelessness, jobs, access, health, and belief and trust. He continued by describing examples of existing structural guiding documents, the need to spend more time on identifying objectives and measures of success in areas that don't have as much guidance already, and the 2023-2024 Biennial Operating Budget (Budget). Colon concluded by facilitating a discussion on Council Member reactions to the summary results of measures of success from 2022 and if they feel it guided the work of 2022 leading into the Budget.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding perceptions of safety; quantitative data for the percentage of residents that feel safe in 2021 and 2022; focus areas; the percentage of the Budget that was spent on the priority areas; areas of progress or lack of progress; an update on Community Land Trust; child care; having environment be its own priority area; the creation of Tacoma 2025 and how it has evolved; adding a community education component to the safety priority area; building onto the current priority areas; and the idea to frame the priority areas in context as policy, partnership, and platform solutions.

Chelsea Talbert, Strategic Initiatives Program Coordinator, Office of Strategy, facilitated a game focused on 2022 highlights and accomplishments.

2. [23-0124](#) 2023 Outlook

At approximately 11:46 a.m., Ted Richardson, Strategic Initiatives Program Coordinator, Office of Strategy, presented a list of broader social, economic, and environmental conditions to consider when making policy in 2023, including financial uncertainty across the economy, national trend of decreasing trust in local government, national and local conversation on the role of policing and violent crime, the continuing crises of housing and homelessness, new revenue strategies and impending funding cliffs, City Charter review and Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) review, workforce turnover and lack of labor availability, and the Climate Action Plan and

continued drive to sustainable development and solutions. He concluded by facilitating a discussion where the Council Members reflected on the listed topics and to think of any other broader social context that should be considered.

Discussion ensued regarding the negative context of most topics on the list, City Charter review and TPU review, adding youth violence prevention to the list of national and local conversations on the role of policing and violent crime, the potential for new Council Members, government and community partnerships, retirements, ongoing stresses and impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the climate.

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The City Council special meeting recessed at 12:06 p.m.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 12:44 p.m.

3. [23-0125](#) Review Strategic Plans, Objectives, and Measures of Success for City Council Priorities

At approximately 12:44 p.m. Colon provided a summary sheet of the 2022 highlights, and introduced discussion about the summary of the strategic plans and guiding documents being used by departments to implement City Council direction for the priority areas and if the Council Members have any clarifying questions for the directors. He concluded by asking Council Members to separate into groups to discuss reactions to the strategic plans and guiding documents summary, noting topics that confirm the direction the City is going or opportunity areas.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding topics listed under the priority areas, noting clarifications, additions, or deletions of topics; and reactions to the summary of strategic plans and guiding documents.

4. [23-0126](#) Discussion on Achieving City Council Priorities in 2023 Through Policy, Platform, and Partnership

At approximately 1:10 p.m., Colon presented definitions and potential actions for each priority area, noting policy, platform, partnership, and programs and parking lot; and facilitated a discussion on the potential actions to address topics that are or aren't included in the lists.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding how proximity is defined in regards to livable wage jobs within proximity to the City and how the health priority area should include environment in the definition. Discussion continued on topics that are or aren't included in the potential actions lists, noting

clarifications, additions, or deletions of topics.

Colon facilitated an activity where each Council Member would identify actions they think the City Council should take either Council-wide or as an individual Council Member and to place them with the priority area they may belong to.

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The City Council special meeting recessed at 2:23 p.m.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 2:46 p.m.

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Colon facilitated an activity where Council Members would review the actions identified from the previous activity and point out which ones they would be interested in participating in and to add actions or ideas they have that are not already listed under the priority areas.

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The City Council special meeting recessed at 2:55 p.m. to allow Council Members to participate in the activity.

The City Council special meeting reconvened at 3:10 p.m.

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Colon continued by introducing a discussion in reflection of the activities the Council Members just completed, including what excites them the most about their role or the role of the City Council in 2023; what concerns they have; reactions they had in seeing their colleagues ideas and proposed actions; how coordination and communication for the potential actions could happen effectively among the City Council; how the City Manager and City staff can support them administratively; identifying each Council Member's strength, noting if it's policy, platform, or partnership; and by describing next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding what excited the Council Members the most about their role or the role of the City Council in 2023; concerns; reactions to colleagues' ideas and proposed actions; effective coordination and communication among the City Council; how the City Manager and City staff can support the Council Members administratively; and identifying each Council Member's strength, noting if it's policy, platform, or partnership.

CLOSE OUT AND REFLECTIONS

Colon concluded by leading a discussion on Council Member's takeaways from the workshop in terms of their role on the City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding takeaways from the workshop.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk