



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

March 21, 2017

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

Present: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Lonergan

Briefing Items

1. [17-0297](#) Puget Sound Regional Council - Regional Centers Strategy Discussion

At approximately 12:08 p.m., Liz Underwood-Bultmann, Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Senior Planner, presented on the regional centers framework and provided information on regional objectives and initiatives, roles of other places such as military lands and countywide centers, and how regional centers have changed over time. She stated a 21 member stakeholder working group with regional representation met over the course of six months to develop recommendations and distinct alternatives for board consideration and to identify policy issues. She then presented the final report and recommendations from the working group, including two regional growth center alternatives, three manufacturing/industrial center alternatives, three options for military installations and facilities, and a potential new centers framework. She highlighted the key policy issues, including planning and funding implications, equity and social justice, re-designation of existing centers, the number and distribution of centers, and the role of centers in unincorporated areas.

Discussion ensued regarding core industrial uses in centers, the reasons for this work, limited resources for infinite needs and the need to set a clear strategy, PSRC Vision 2040 and future updates and growth trends, and driving growth to designated areas with supporting infrastructure.

2. [17-0298](#) 2016 Streets Initiative Progress Report and 2017 Work Plan

At approximately 12:29 p.m., Kurtis Kingsolver, Public Works Director, provided brief opening remarks and introduced Reid Bennion, Management Analyst, and Erik Sloan, Pavement Manager. Mr. Bennion provided an update on the Tacoma Streets Initiative, including an overview of funding sources and budget. He presented 2016 actuals and 2017 projected financials and capital commitments. Mr. Kingsolver discussed the Taylor Way project and the agreements tied to this project. Mr. Sloan discussed 2016 actuals and 2017 projected residential maintenance projects, including overlay, surface treatment, preventative maintenance, and gravel streets. Mr. Bennion discussed 2016 unexpended funds and plans for those funds in residential maintenance and capital funds. He concluded by reviewing communications, including resident notification, an after action survey, and the 2016 Streets Initiative Progress Report.

Discussion ensued regarding grant and partner funding, geographic equity, weather-related impacts and potholes, and plans to address the backlog and issues. Discussion continued regarding additional dashboards for projects, including smaller projects and pedestrian safety; and communications, including additional information and tracking metrics around ten-year goals and regular progress reports.

Other Items of Interest

3. [17-0302](#) Council Consideration Request - Hilltop Regional Health Center Expansion

Council Member Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) directing the City Manager to allocate \$100,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund, consisting of \$50,000 in 2017 and 2018, to support the expansion of the Hilltop Regional Health Center. He noted this is a capital request to expand their facility, which will allow them to serve approximately 5,000 more people each year. He noted part of the request is to have staff execute a contract to outline terms and deliverables for the funds.

Discussion ensued regarding support for the CCR, the history of funding for Community Health Care, other known sources of funding for the expansion, and potential terms and deliverables.

4. [17-0303](#) Council Consideration Request - Implementing the Container Port Element of the Comprehensive Plan

Council Member Mello presented a CCR relative to having staff and the Planning Commission research and recommend possible modifications to zoning, subdivision, and development regulations to better implement the container port element of the Comprehensive Plan. He noted the intent is to support high-paying family-wage manufacturing/industrial jobs and support and protect the scarce manufacturing/industrial land in the city. He stated this will start a public process to review and set appropriate uses within this zone, and there is no predetermined output.

Discussion ensued regarding review and work conducted in the past, the needs of the industrial port, economic development, the wants and needs of the community, public participation, the role of the Port of Tacoma, if this is the right public process for this issue or if more direction is needed for the Planning Commission.

Mayor Strickland asked Peter Huffman, Planning and Development Services Director, to discuss the level of public involvement that would take place if the Planning Commission took on this review. Mr. Huffman stated this CCR would start a conversation with the Planning Commission to review the use table in the Port/Maritime Industrial Area and include conversations with all stakeholders, including the City Council, the Port of Tacoma, property owners in the tideflats, and the larger community with interest in the tideflats area. He noted this type of conversation is also happening regionally, as heard earlier from the Puget Sound Regional Council, and there are some current uses that may be in conflict with the core types of industrial uses that are envisioned in manufacturing/industrial centers. He noted the long-range solution is a subarea plan and this CCR is an interim step that would not prevent the Council or community from engaging in a future process or discussion regarding uses, buffers, and development.

Discussion continued regarding if this is the best public process or tool for this issue, support for the CCR, and what types of uses may be appropriate or inappropriate to include in this conversation or in this zone.

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Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager, stated Peter Huffman is here today to discuss Director’s Rule 01-2017, relative to expanded public notification for all heavy industrial projects which require SEPA review, at the request of Council Member McCarthy. Mr. Huffman stated this Director’s Rule stems from community feedback regarding notification and staff works very hard to

make sure notification happens so the community can be informed and invited to engage in public process, and this Rule expands and enhances notification for large industrial projects. He provided a brief overview of current notification requirements and stated feedback is that sometimes those boundaries do not adequately inform the public of projects that impact them. He then highlighted the major points of the Rule, noting this is an 18-month interim administrative process until a larger review is complete and expanded notification codified. Discussion ensued regarding outreach and notification outside the city limits, outreach to community organizations, and if this expanded notification is still not enough.

Ms. Pauli then requested Kurtis Kingsolver, Public Works Director, to speak to Resolution No. 39682 on tonight's agenda regarding a memorandum of agreement with Sound Transit relative to the Tacoma Link Expansion Project. Mr. Kingsolver stated there are two agreements, a funding agreement as well as a right-of-use agreement, and this is a critical time for the project. He provided an overview of the agreements and reviewed project costs and funding obligations. Discussion ensued regarding the role of Tacoma Public Utilities in projects and potentials cut in federal funding that may impact Sound Transit projects.

Council Member Ibsen shared with the Council that he has been speaking with the City Attorney about a possible amendment to the City Charter relative to term limits, and doing so in a methodical way to avoid unintended circumstances. He stated he had no specific proposal at this time but wanted to daylight his conversations and welcome Council feedback.

Ms. Pauli stated on tonight's agenda is the second reading of the proposed Tacoma Power rates that were presented last week. She stated the Public Utility Board will be considering a revised set of rates and staff is requesting the City Council to make a motion tonight to remove second reading of the current rates ordinance. She stated also on tonight's agenda is a resolution that, if adopted, sets forth the elements that Council would be asking TPU to take into consideration in developing another rate proposal. She noted the revised proposal going to the Public Utility Board has been provided to Council. Discussion ensued regarding the alignment between the Council resolution and the revised rates proposal going to the Board. Acting City Attorney Bill Fosbre stated there is an amendment that may be brought forward by Board Member Flint.

Committee Reports

Mayor Strickland provided an update on Sound Transit 3, stating concerns were raised regarding license tab fees and there are several proposals at the state legislature, one with a large fiscal impact. She stated the Sound Transit Board is taking a close look at these proposals, including fiscal impact, impacts to different regional areas, and timelines and deliverables.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [17-0299](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, March 16, 2017

Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager, stated there is one recognition on tonight's agenda, recognizing the late Melanie Dressel, Columbia Bank Chief Executive Officer. She stated there is one potential change to the agenda to remove the second reading of the Tacoma Power rates ordinance.

Ms. Pauli then noted at the last Citizens' Forum on February 14, 2017, the City Council received a written request to conduct a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the proposed liquefied natural gas facility and the response to that request is in the City Manager's Weekly Report. She provided a summary of the response and the review conducted by staff, and stated information posted on the web site has been updated.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiation

MOTION: Council Member Mello moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 20 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ibsen.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Lonergan

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Lonergan

The Council convened to Closed Session at 2:23 p.m.

The Closed Session concluded at 2:43 p.m.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:43 p.m. Acting City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:58 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk