



City of Tacoma

Government Performance and Finance Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

April 03, 2018

10:00 AM

Chair Anders Ibsen, Vice Chair Ryan Mello,
Keith Blocker, Lillian Hunter, Justin Camarata(alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Ibsen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Present: 3 - Hunter, Mello and Ibsen

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Approval of Minutes

1. [18-0328](#) Approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 20, 2018.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2018 meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 3 - Hunter, Mello and Ibsen

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Briefing Items

2. [18-0317](#) Uniform Enforcement Code
[Chris Bacha, Chief Deputy, City Attorney's Office]

At approximately 10:07 a.m., Chris Bacha, Chief Deputy City Attorney, made opening remarks relating to the enforcement of the Tacoma Municipal Code, amending Title 1 by adding Chapter 1.82, Uniform Code Enforcement, and Chapter 1.84, Hearing Examiner-Appeal of Code Enforcement Actions.

Mr. Bacha presented the proposed revisions, enforcement practices and procedures, comparison of code enforcement models to other jurisdictions, education and tools involved, voluntary compliance agreements, processes used with the code, monetary penalties, and constitutional obligations. He continued on why the proposed revisions is a two-step process, how the revisions will affect other chapters of the code, how this will create uniform, departmental needs being met within the City, feedback received, flexibility with penalties, Washington State laws involved, ability to determine circumstances, constitutional issues, the appeal process, expedited administrative review, and uniform procedures.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding other municipalities that have been successful with similar code changes, participation of staff who will be deploying the code changes, departmental resources, the length of the draft code, consistency of terminology, compliance issues, timeline, user friendliness for the public, elimination of inefficiencies, the amendment process, and the migration of the code. Discussion continued on how to keep our City in compliance, violations and penalties, voluntary compliance measures, discretion of the uniform enforcement officers, administrative level flexibility, response on a case-by-case basis, equity displayed from departmental heads, and the possibility of an equity training session for staff.

Linda McCrea, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities, presented on standard application, the due process for equal treatment, and inspectors showing equality across the board. Ms. McCrea then addressed legislation that is currently in the process of being passed by the Governor of Washington State.

Discussion continued on the liability of residents that reside in a property they do not own, code restrictions, properties in foreclosure, absence of consent from property owners, the fines for public nuisance, properties in a lien status, projected feedback, expedited review process, appeals, and proposed revisions.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to recommend the proposed amendment relating to the Uniform Code Enforcement to the full City Council for consideration.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 3 - Hunter, Mello and Ibsen

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [18-0318](#) April 17, 2018 - Review of Participatory Budgeting
 May 1, 2018 - Fossil Fuels and Sustainable Alternatives

Rebecca Boydston, Committee Liaison, stated that the next meeting on April 17, 2018 will include the review of participatory budgeting, and the meeting of May 1, 2018 will include fossil fuels and sustainable alternatives.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Anders Ibsen, Chair

Stacy Manthou, City Clerk's Office