



City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

July 23, 2019

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Lillian Hunter,
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Present: 4 - Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Approval of Minutes

1. [19-0758](#) Approval of the minutes of the July 10, 2019 special meeting

MOTION: Deputy Mayor McCarthy moved to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2019 special meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

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

Ayes: 4 - Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Briefing Items

2. [19-0745](#) Local Revitalization Financing
[Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:04 a.m., Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development, made opening remarks; presented background information regarding the Local Revitalization Financing (LRF) program; and reviewed eligible uses of the funds, including infrastructure improvements, historic preservation, environmental analysis, and maintenance and security for common or public areas. Ms. Walkowiak

outlined LRF criteria derived from State law and policies, including honoring the downtown revitalization area, using LRF resources for public improvements to encourage private development, increasing tax revenue for the State, assisting in economic development or redevelopment, and increasing private investment and employment. She concluded by reviewing criteria for the distribution of funds, including not funding developers with other means of funding, a financing gap, creative solutions for project completion, and a minimum development project size.

Discussion ensued regarding local and Federal investments in infrastructure improvements, financing gaps, incentives, LRF utilization, promoting LRF to initiate improvements, public benefits, bundling LRF with other economic incentives, customized proposals for developers, project scenarios, parking, City use of LRF funds for development generation, LRF cap, and challenges.

3. [19-0759](#)

Council Policy Priorities

[Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, City Manager's Office]

At approximately 10:53 a.m., Chair Thoms made opening remarks regarding Council policy priorities and presented a matrix chart for Council Members to discuss and identify priorities for scheduling of the remaining Economic Development Committee meetings. Council Member Hunter stated that safe, clean, sanitary, and attractive neighborhoods needed to be addressed and requested that it be a priority moving forward. Council Member Ushka added increase food innovation in food deserts to the list of priorities to be scheduled. Deputy Mayor McCarthy agreed on the importance of addressing safe, clean, sanitary, and attractive neighborhoods, parking, and traffic issues. Council Member Ushka suggested that infill development and green jobs development be added for scheduling.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding the Pierce Transit center on Commerce Street, a pilot program referring to safe and clean neighborhoods, police staffing study, public safety budget, mix-use centers, having a joint meeting with the Community Vitality and Safety Committee, and clarification of top priorities for scheduling.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [19-0746](#)

July 30, 2019 - Cancelled

August 13, 2019 - Foss Waterway Development Authority Interviews

Chair Thoms stated the July 30, 2019 meeting has been cancelled, and the next meeting will be on August 13, 2019 and will include Foss Waterway Development Authority interviews.

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 adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Robert Thoms, Chair

Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office