



City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 836 0101 6378

Dial: 1-855-747-8824 Passcode: 8215373

April 24, 2020

2:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Blocker called the special meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Thoms

All Council Members participated virtually.

Council Member Thoms arrived at 2:13 p.m.

BRIEFING ITEMS

1. [20-0320](#) Approval of the submission of a letter to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement regarding the health of the detainees at the Northwest ICE Processing Center.

MOTION: Mayor Woodards moved to approve the submission of the letter to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement regarding the health of the detainees at the Northwest ICE Processing Center.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

Mayor Woodards and Council Members Ushka and Walker presented the intent behind the letter.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Thoms

2. [20-0324](#) Approval to sign on to a letter being circulated by the Port of Tacoma and Northwest Seaport Alliance regarding the importance of the trade relationship with Alaska and showing support and solidarity during the time of COVID-19.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 2:13 p.m.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to approve signing the letter being circulated by the Port of Tacoma and Northwest Seaport Alliance regarding the importance of the trade relationship with Alaska and showing support and solidarity during the time of COVID-19.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

Deputy Mayor Blocker and Council Member Ushka presented the intent behind the letter.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

3. [20-0321](#) Update on the status and impact of COVID-19 and the City's response including:
- Update on Tacoma Public Utilities; and
 - Update from the City Manager.

Jackie Flowers, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), introduced Scott Dewhirst, Water Superintendent; Dale King, Rail Superintendent; and Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent, TPU. Ms. Flowers provided an update on TPU, including the financial review process and actions already taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Dewhirst provided an update on Tacoma Water, including the anticipated timeline of demand and revenue loss through 2021 and impacts on service requests, development, and capital projects.

Mr. King provided an update on Tacoma Rail, including employment level, capitalized projects, and new train units coming in.

Mr. Robinson provided an update on Tacoma Power, including background, how power retail rates are calculated, how the COVID-19 emergency is affecting power usage and revenue, and actions being taken to offset the difference.

Ms. Flowers provided an update on the Click! migration and finding options for underprivileged Tacoma Public Schools students to get internet access and equipment.

Discussion ensued regarding Click! billing going forward.

Deputy City Manager Tadd Wille introduced Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services. Ms. Stewart provided an update on the City's response to food insecurity, noting senior meals from Beacon and Lighthouse activity centers, the distribution of meals to seniors in need, and increased funding for supporting City food banks. She further reviewed housing instability, noting the Rental Assistance Program, how much assistance households can apply for, how the funds will be allocated, the application period, equitable distribution of the funding, applications processed so far, social media outreach, and steps moving forward.

Deputy City Manager Wille reminded the Council Members that they will be convening to a Closed Session after the special meeting to discuss labor strategies.

ADJOURNMENT

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk