City of Tacoma
Economic Development
Committee Minutes

Telephonic

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 838 0354 8796 Password: 009659

July 21, 2020

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker, Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the special meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Blocker, Thoms and Ushka
Absent: 1 - McCarthy

All Council Members participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes

1. 20-0448 Approval of the minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting

MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2020, meeting.

SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Blocker.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.
Ayes: 3 - Blocker, Thoms and Ushka
Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Briefing Items

2. 20-0449 Community and Economic Development Department's work since COVID-19, and ongoing and future economic recovery efforts
[Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development Department]

At approximately 10:04 a.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development Department (CEDD), introduced Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director; Carol Wolfe, Division Manager; Linda Womack, Supervisor; and Felicia Medlen, Division Manager, CEDD. Mr. Robinson presented an overview of CEDD's efforts during the COVID-19 situation, including information collection and dissemination for businesses; technical assistance; business finance; partnerships; and current and future initiatives, noting business assistance and financing programs, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, funding from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, Community Development Block Grant funding, technical assistance to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) owned businesses, outreach, and the Equity in Contracting Program. Mr. Robinson concluded by reviewing focus areas and projects, including expansion visits, the General Services Administration, and building projects.

Discussion ensued regarding language equity, partnerships with non-English speaking communities, outreach to the Black and Latinx communities, race statistics of business owners who applied and who received loans, Paycheck Protection Program funding, ways to reach more BIPOC business owners, building wealth, risk mitigation, and incentivizing employees.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. **20-0450** July 28, 2020 - Cancelled

Chair Thoms stated the July 28, 2020, meeting has been cancelled.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the special meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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Robert Thoms, Chair

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Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office