



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/88227539908](http://www.zoom.us/j/88227539908) Passcode: 614650

**June 08, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

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

## Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Blocker

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Approval of Minutes

1. [21-0557](#) Approval of the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting

**MOTION: Council Member McCarthy moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021, meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Blocker

2. [21-0558](#) Approval of the minutes of the January 26, 2021 meeting

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2021, meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member McCarthy.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - Blocker

## Briefing Items

3. [21-0556](#) Briefing on Establishing a 5G Innovation Lab for the Tacoma Tideflats  
[Pat Beard, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:08 a.m., Pat Beard, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development, gave an overview on establishing a 5G innovation lab for the Tacoma Tideflats, and introduced Joshua Berger, Executive Director, Washington Maritime Blue. Mr. Berger introduced Nathan Tolbert, Director, Tacoma Maritime Innovation Incubator; and Jim Brisimitzis, Founder, 5G Open Innovation Lab. Mr. Berger, Mr. Tolbert, and Mr. Brisimitzis further reviewed Washington Maritime Blue, noting a Strategic Alliance for Maritime Innovation and Sustainability, and an update; background; 5G overview; 5G open innovation lab; innovation opportunities; reasons to locate a 5G innovation lab in the Tideflats; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding making Tacoma the only place businesses want to go, other ports, sustainability, cost of a 5G “super” computer, a project built in Snohomish County, where data is currently stored, if demand is foreseen, what types of industries would use the network, if potential customers of the network have been consulted, better communicating how technological investments help the Port, communicating which companies are involved, required resources, difference between this 5G and cell phone 5G, service range, and the United States Department of Defense usage.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [21-0559](#) June 22, 2021 - Old City Hall Update

Lynda Foster, Committee liaison, stated the next meeting will be on June 22, 2021, and will include an update on the Old City Hall project.

## **Other Items of Interest**

Vice Chair McCarthy asked about the potential for the Committee to spend American Rescue Plan Act funds based on staff recommendations.

## **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

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Robert Thoms, Chair

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Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office