City of Tacoma
Committee of the Whole Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

December 09, 2014

3:00 PM

SPECIAL MEETING

Call To Order

Mayor Strickland called the special meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

Present: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker and Strickland

Absent: 1 - Woodards

Deputy Mayor Woodards arrived at 3:22 p.m.

Briefing Items

14-1252 Paid Leave and a Possible Paid Leave Ordinance Discussion

Mayor Strickland stated she brought this issue forward to explore different policies because the issue is not being handled at the state or federal level. She then reviewed frequently asked questions regarding her proposal; and noted the proposal came from different sources, including Healthy Tacoma and guidelines from the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Strickland stated the accrual rate is one hour of paid leave for 40 hours worked, with a minimum of three days of sick leave; and noted the process would be complaint driven and the proof of compliance would occur at the time of business license renewal. She concluded by stating donating leave is expressly authorized in the proposed ordinance. Discussion ensued regarding the accrual rate and minimum day proposal.

Deputy Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 3:22 p.m.

Council Member Boe requested information on the scale of the problem in Tacoma, and inquired whether there is a report or analysis of how many businesses or employees would be impacted by the proposed ordinance, including whether there is funding set aside for the administration costs. City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there is a year before the proposal would be fully implemented if Council moves forward; and noted he would provide

Council with and update to include estimated costs, and steps necessary to ensure the City has the resources to administer and enforce the ordinance. Council Member Boe stated he is concerned this is a market driven issue and the proposal can hurt small business. Discussion ensued regarding the scope of the issue in Tacoma.

Council Member Walker stated it is important to get an ordinance on the books that can be amended later, and requested staff add reporting requirements and studies to the legislation. Discussion ensued regarding small business, the potential for a tiered program, the desire for additional statistics specific to Tacoma, the need for a program that is easy to understand, and the need to push this issue to the state legislature for a clear statewide policy.
Mayor Strickland stated her intent was to walk an item onto tonight's agenda, but is comfortable holding off until next week for first reading. Discussion continued regarding the timeframe for putting an ordinance together and seeking input from the public. Mayor Strickland stated first reading of the ordinance will be next week and the Council can decide at that time when to set the ordinance over in order to gather public input.

Council Consideration Requests

There were no Council requests.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the special meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

_____
Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

_____
Doris Sorum, City Clerk