



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

June 27, 2017

12:00 PM

---

### Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:09 p.m.

**Present:** 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Mayor Strickland

**Absent:** 1 - Walker Lee

### Briefing Items

1. [17-0641](#) Pierce Transit High Capacity Transit Corridor Briefing

At approximately 12:10 p.m., Dan Pike, Planning and Community Development Executive Director, made opening remarks and introduced Darin Stavish, Principal Planner, Pierce Transit. Mr. Stavish provided information and an update on the Pierce Transit High Capacity Transit Corridor project, including the overview, process, project schedule, report of existing and future conditions, and purpose and need statements. Mr. Stavish then reviewed the mode selection process, including the methodology, mode evaluation summary, next steps, and project development process.

Mr. Stavish concluded by reviewing the public involvement and outreach, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), and BRT elements and examples.

Discussion ensued regarding the importance of working together on the zoning and land use plan, affordability, public outreach, BRT requirements to make changes to current traffic signals, options for higher capacity transit, the state's involvement, impacts on traffic, the purpose and the need for the BRT program, the need for including Joint Base Lewis-McChord's input, community engagement, other partners, and the need for making this project one of the City's top priorities.

## Other Items of Interest

### 17-0768

Proposed Amendments to Human Habitation of Vehicles, Camping in the City and Sitting/Lying on Sidewalks Ordinances

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli made opening remarks on the three proposed amendments relating to public health and safety, originally proposed and recommended at the Community Vitality and Safety Committee meeting on June 22, 2017. City Attorney Bill Fosbre provided brief information regarding revised and current proposed amendments and introduced Deputy City Attorney Jennifer Taylor and Assistant City Attorney Keith Echterling to provide further information. Ms. Taylor addressed the proposed changes to Chapter 11.05 of the Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) by amending Section 11.05.231, relating to "Human Habitation of Vehicles."

Discussion ensued regarding the ways to track vehicles, penalties, surveillance parameters, lack of affordable housing options, challenges, adjusting the recommendation language, balancing the impacts on the neighborhood and the homeless, the number of citations, safety and nuisance issues, and lengthy parking time frame. Discussion continued regarding potential parking area at the stability/transitional site originated from the emergency homeless encampment program, enforceability issues, minimum distance required for an unlawful vehicle to be moved, the need for increasing the law enforcement efforts, and the need for limiting number of violations and escalating penalty fees for the frequent flyers.

Mr. Echterling provided information on the proposed amendments relative to TMC Chapter 8.12, relating to "Disorderly Conduct", by adding two new Sections 8.12.180, entitled "Statement of Purpose," and 8.12.190, entitled "Unlawful Camping," which correlate to the emergency declaration on homelessness.

Discussion ensued regarding the public property areas, trespassing issues, the need for amending the fine, the use of public right-of-way, clarifications on the language, the plans for handling incidents, scope of the camping incidents and actions taken by the law enforcement, and the need for outreach resources.

Mr. Echterling stated the last ordinance today is submitted for consideration to amend TMC Title 8 relative to "Public Safety", by adding a new Chapter 8.12A, entitled "Sitting and Lying on Sidewalks," to protect the constitutional rights activities and to provide additional tools to define sitting or lying on public sidewalks.

Discussion ensued regarding the complaint-driven process, defining unlawful activities, educating the public on how to report such incidents, a concern for the limited time frame, enforcement availability, increasing number of street population those who are not homeless, and challenges with obstructed sidewalks.

## Committee Reports

Council Member Mello stated he represented the City of Tacoma at the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Board of Directors meeting in Vancouver, and learned how Vancouver applied the new homelessness strategies, public records, and updates on state legislature. He stated AWC has elected new officials and the president is Mayor Pat Johnson, City of Buckley, and discussed the marketplace fairness, tax structure, and the decision.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

2. [17-0642](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, June 22, 2017

City Manager Pauli stated there are two proclamations on tonight's agenda, proclaiming July 2017 as LGBTQ Pride Month and National Parks and Recreation Month. She stated there are no expected changes to the agenda.

## Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 20 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.**

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Mayor Strickland

**Absent:** 1 - Walker Lee

## **Executive Session - Pending Litigation**

**MOTION:** Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 10 minutes.

**SECONDED BY:** Council Member Mello.

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

**Ayes:** 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Loneragan, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Mayor Strickland

**Absent:** 1 - Walker Lee

The Council convened to Closed Session at 2:12 p.m.

The Closed Session was extended by 20 minutes at 2:32 p.m.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:52 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:02 p.m.

## **Executive Session - Performance Review of a Public Employee**

The Executive Session to discuss the performance review of a public employee was not held.

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Doris Sorum, City Clerk