



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

July 18, 2017

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present: 6 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Mello, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 3 - Lonergan, McCarthy and Thoms

Deputy Mayor Thoms arrived at 12:21 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [17-0707](#) Tacoma Smelter Plume Project Update

At approximately 12:05 p.m., Ian Munce, Special Assistant to the Director, Planning and Development Services, introduced Amy Hargrove, Remediation Manager, and Marian Abbett, Toxic Cleanup Program Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology. Ms. Abbett made opening remarks and provided information relative to the progress of the Tacoma Smelter Plume project, including an overview, map of arsenic contamination, and plan for the Asarco settlement funds and its approach. Ms. Hargrove then provided information relative to the yard sampling and cleanup program, map of yard program service area, yard program costs, soil sampling in Tacoma, status of sampling and soil replacement, breakdown of arsenic sampling results, outreach, yard program sequence, current and future soil replacement in Tacoma, completed soil replacement in Tacoma, arsenic information in soil database, helpful links, and an update on the soil safety program. Ms. Abbett concluded by reviewing technical assistance, and how to contact the program representatives.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding the need for data on capital budget issues that will directly impact Tacoma, percentage of completed soil replacement, contamination of soil and how much of it affects the air quality, the need for statistics or data on airborne contamination, and clarifying the numbers of yard program sequence.

Deputy Mayor Thoms arrived here, at 12:21 p.m.

2. [17-0708](#) State Environmental Policy Act - Environmental Impact Statement process

At approximately 12:23 p.m., Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Developmental Services, introduced Shirley Schultz, Principal Planner, and Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney, and provided information on the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), including an overview, history, what SEPA is, and what SEPA is not. Ms. Schultz provided information related to the process of SEPA flow chart, evaluation checklist, and scope of SEPA review. She then reviewed the threshold determination, including Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS), Preliminary Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS), and a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Mr. Huffman noted the issuances of DNS and MDNS are mostly related to transportation issues. Ms. Schultz then concluded by reviewing various impacts, purpose for City uses, mitigation, process for modifying SEPA decisions, examples of modified projects, appeal process, and a helpful external resource. Mr. Huffman noted the use of SEPA consists of informing the community and helping the residents better understand the project processes.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for SEPA process presentation at the Council orientation, Tideflats Subarea Plan, the need for greenhouse gas analysis on City projects, the need for clear policies and guidelines, authorities and enforcement, residents' concerns and views, codes versus SEPA, broad provision of anticipated impacts and outcomes with residents, adverse impacts from the change of scope, litigation impacts from the City's decision, and the importance of a thorough SEPA review and process.

Other Items of Interest

3. [17-0722](#) Tideflats Interim Regulations

At approximately 1:29 p.m., Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, made an opening remark regarding Resolution No. 39723, which initiated the tideflats subarea plan process. Mr. Huffman provided information on the presentation including an overview, interpretation of the Resolution, tideflats interim regulations, initial review, and initial concepts. Brian Boudet, Planning and Development Services Division Manager, and Steve Atkinson, Senior Planner, provided information on the warranted interim regulations and key criteria of the tideflats interim regulations, the vision, policy framework, environmental review, issues, public engagement, anticipated new industrial and residential development, planning process, communicating with the Planning Commission, balanced approach, and tentative schedule.

Discussion ensued regarding the dispersion of responsibilities.

4. [17-0709](#) Council Consideration Request - Immigrant Defense Fund

Council Member Blocker presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) and provided information relative to an Immigrant Defense Fund to support those facing deportation hearings with legal fees.

Discussion ensued regarding the qualifications, provision of clear directions and definitions, and the need for further discussion at the Community Vitality and Safety Committee meeting.

5. [17-0710](#) Council Consideration Request - Downtown Retail Enhancement Strategy

Council Member Mello presented a CCR requesting the City Council concurrence to allocate up to \$25,000 from the Council Contingency Fund to hire a third party consultant to develop a downtown retail enhancement strategy. India Adams, Management Analyst, Community and Economic Development, reviewed the project proposals and plans.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for collecting and reviewing Downtown Tacoma studies, utilization of appropriate areas, use of consultants, and challenges with the ownership of properties.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [17-0711](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, July 13, 2017

City Manager Pauli, stated there are no ceremonials or any expected changes to tonight's agenda.

Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Mello moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending and potential litigation, not to exceed 20 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ibsen.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 2 - Lonergan and McCarthy

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:12 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:32 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.


Marilyn Strickland, Mayor
Doris Sorum, City Clerk