



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

August 07, 2018

12:00 PM

Call to Order

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

Present: 6 - Blocker, Camarata, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy and Ushka

Absent: 3 - Beale, Mello and Mayor Woodards

Council Member Hunter participated telephonically.

Council Member Mello arrived at 12:07 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Ibsen stated Item No. 2 regarding the Therapeutic Mental Health Court will be addressed first.

Briefing Items

2. [18-0910](#) Therapeutic Mental Health Court

At approximately 12:05 p.m., Elizabeth Verhey, Judge, Tacoma Municipal Court (TMC), provided a proposal to enhance the Mental Health Court, stating it is a pilot project, flexible and innovative program for defendant participants, and provided examples of defendant participants.

Council Member Mello arrived here, at 12:07 p.m.

Ms. Verhey provided information on the mental health calendar conducted by the TMC; partnerships with stakeholders in the criminal justice system; who is in the core team; and partnerships with the Tacoma Police Department, transition team located at the Pierce County Jail, the jail mental health unit, Pierce County District Court Resource Center, and designated crisis responders, noting the work with all of these groups is to develop plans for people who are not competent. She stated what the current issue is; this is a multi-disciplinary approach to address mental health issues; and provided the number of cases seen from September 2015 to December 31, 2017, noting the number of defendants that were found competent, disposed of without an

evaluation, and found to be not competent. She further provided the number of cases seen from January 1, 2018 to August 1, 2018, noting the number of defendants found competent, found to not be competent, and the number that did not need an evaluation; and informed that the number of defendants do not equal the same number of cases because some defendants have more than one case. She stated from 2015 to 2018 there was a significant need for a therapeutic calendar, noting a person can be found competent but may still be suffering from mental health issues and have specialized needs which adds other factors to the issues; she compared the program to other jurisdictions programs; and described the need for a program manager and an assistant program manager in the pilot project and what their roles would be. She further described resources that can be provided to the defendants, the purpose of the Therapeutic Court, the proposed start date of the program, and the transition process of handling the Mental Health Court with the new mental health judge. Ms. Verhey concluded by presenting the concept of the therapeutic calendar.

Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services, stated the program supports the Council priorities of homelessness and public safety, and the equity impacts in providing services to the most vulnerable and at risk residents of the community. She continued by stating this is an innovative approach, it is not a direct service provided by the City but the City will find a provider to perform the services, and the program should be ready to begin in October.

Discussion ensued regarding how individuals are identified as eligible for the program; types of crimes committed; if there is a deferment process for following the protocol to get assistance; resources individuals can use to get treatment, noting the Pierce County District Court Resource Center; and program capacity. Discussion concluded on decreasing recidivism, and access to available mental health services in the community.

1. [18-0909](#) Second Quarter Financial Report

At approximately 12:31 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Director, Office of Management and Budget, presented the 2018 Second Quarter Financial Report, including an update on the General Fund balance, noting revenues and expenditures. She further reviewed the General Fund revenues, including the 2018 planned revenue, second quarter projected and actual amount of revenue, and the variance percentage; a breakdown of the planned and actual revenues by month; and revenue variance, noting source, amount, and percent. She continued by describing the General Fund expenditures, including the 2018 planned expenses and variance amount and percentage; expenditure variance, noting departments, amount, and reasons for the

positive variance; and provided a total amount of the delayed contractual expenses and risks and variable costs. She reviewed the General Fund supported funds, noting key funds and their revenues and expenditures. Ms. Johnston concluded by describing other updates, including the Budget Initiative tracker, budget process, and ways to engage and learn more.

Discussion ensued regarding preparing for delayed impacts on the revenues in the forecast.

Other Items of Interest

3. [18-0922](#) Council Consideration Request - 2018 McKinley Hill Street Fair traffic control devices.

Council Member Ushka presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$500 for costs associated with traffic control devices at the 2018 McKinley Hill Street Fair. She stated there are many reasons why they are no longer considered a part of the Neighborhood Business District Association and there have been challenges in applying for funds this year.

Discussion ensued regarding aligning the McKinley Hill Business District with other business districts for engagement and benefit purposes and the CCR process.

Committee Reports

Council Member Mello stated he represents the Pierce County Flood Control Zone District Advisory Council and at the meeting held on Friday, August 3, 2018, they recommended a budget to the Board of Supervisors, which is the Pierce County Council. He reminded Council Members of the effective tax parcel rate, the authorized amount, and goal rate; and stated it will generate about 8.5 million of revenue and another robust capital program to improve levies and flood protection.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [18-0911](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, August 2, 2018

City Manager Pauli stated there are no ceremonials at tonight's meeting and there is one expected change, to amend Purchase Resolution No. 40081 to change the source from Wastewater to Surface Water.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 12:54 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Doris Sorum, City Clerk