



# City of Tacoma City Council Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 890 2715 0863

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89027150863](http://www.zoom.us/j/89027150863)

**July 14, 2020**

**5:00 PM**

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## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Woodards called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

All Council Members participated virtually.

## **FLAG SALUTE**

The flag salute was led by Deputy Mayor Blocker.

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

In honor of Reverend Dr. Eugene Wiegman and all of those who have lost their lives to or have been impacted by COVID-19 and systemic racism.

## **ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK**

There were no items filed in the City Clerk's Office.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

There were no Consent Agenda items.

## **PROCLAMATIONS/RECOGNITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no proclamations, recognitions, presentations, or announcements.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public Comment began at 5:09 p.m.

Public Comment ended at 5:11 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received four written comments for Public Comment on Resolution No. 40627, regarding retail cannabis licenses.

## REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. [20-0437](#) A motion may be considered to authorize the City’s full and final settlement of all personal injury claims against the City by Sherrill Rotchstein in the matter of Sherrill Rotchstein v. City of Tacoma, et al., Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 19-2-05700-4, relating to personal injuries from a sidewalk trip and fall accident, upon payment by the City in the amount of \$40,000.

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**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to authorize the City’s full and final settlement of all personal injury claims against the City by Sherrill Rotchstein in the matter of Sherrill Rotchstein v. City of Tacoma, et al., Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 19-2-05700-4, relating to personal injuries from a sidewalk trip and fall accident, upon payment by the City in the amount of \$40,000.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.**

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

**Ayes:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards  
**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

- 2. [20-0438](#) A motion may be considered to reconfirm the appointment of Jackie Flowers as the Director of Tacoma Public Utilities for a two-year period, beginning August 1, 2020 and ending July 31, 2022.

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved that, consistent with Article IV, Section 4.18, of the Tacoma City Charter, the City Council reconfirm the appointment of Jackie Flowers as the Director of Tacoma Public Utilities for a two-year period, beginning August 1, 2020 and ending July 31, 2022.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.**

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

**Ayes:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards  
**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

## APPOINTMENTS

3.        [RES40626](#)    A resolution appointing individuals to the Mayor’s Youth Commission of Tacoma leadership team to serve a one-year term, to expire June 30, 2021.  
[Bucoda Warren, Senior Management Fellow; Tadd Wille, Deputy City Manager, City Manager’s Office]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40626.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.**

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

**Ayes:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards  
**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

## RESOLUTIONS

4.        [RES40627](#)    A resolution reserving the City’s unused allotted retail cannabis licenses for social equity applicants and requesting eight additional retail cannabis licenses be granted to the City, if possible, for social equity applicants from the newly formed Legislative Task Force on Social Equity in Marijuana.  
[Deputy Mayor Blocker]

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to adopt Resolution No. 40627.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.**

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

**Ayes:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards  
**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

## FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES

5. [ORD28680](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to implement rates of pay and compensation for employees represented by the Washington State Council of County and City Employees, Local 120; and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483, Clerical Unit.  
[Kari L. Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager; Gary Buchanan, Director, Human Resources]

**ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28680. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards  
**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

6. [ORD28681](#) An ordinance amending Chapter 1.12 of the Municipal Code, relating to the Compensation Plan, to allow the voluntary use of leave without pay for represented employees, and amendments related to the Commute Trip Reduction Program.  
[Kari L. Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager; Gary Buchanan, Director, Human Resources]

**ACTION: Roll call vote was taken on Ordinance No. 28681. The Ordinance was declared passed by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards  
**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## COMMUNITY FORUM

Community Forum began at 5:28 p.m.

The City Clerk's Office received 24 written comments for Community Forum, regarding roadside gardens; the Tacoma Police Department (TPD); hours of construction in the City; the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC); Pierce Transit's Bus Rapid Transit; Pierce County Council's Resolution No. 2020-22, Tahoma Narcotics Enforcement Team; and a petition to the Tacoma Public Schools to address systemic racism across and within Tacoma Public Schools.

Speaking before the City Council:

1. Courtney Love, regarding Manuel Ellis's family and the TPD.
2. Katie H-V, regarding systemic racism, the City budget, and transforming our system.
3. Devin Rydel Kelly, regarding Manuel Ellis's family and the City budget.
4. Dr. Hillel Samlan, regarding policing and the City budget.
5. Dr. Jonathan Pottle, regarding the City budget and the firing of police officers.
6. Alyssa Urish, regarding the firing of police officers, the City budget, and Manuel Ellis's family.
7. Jaleesa, regarding the firing of police officers.
8. Monet Carter-Mixon, regarding Manuel Ellis and the firing of police officers.
9. Jamika Scott, regarding Manuel Ellis, Bennie Branch, and Jacqueline Salyers; and the firing of police officers.
10. Chris Jordan, regarding the firing of police officers.
11. Zack Pattin, regarding police, Juneteenth Day, the firing of police officers, and the City budget.
12. Karen Wilson, regarding the City budget, police presence in schools, and decriminalizing narcotics.
13. David Thompson, regarding food security in Tacoma and roadside gardens.
14. Marcus Bartlett, regarding the firing of police officers and the City budget.
15. Rebecca Schwartzman, regarding the firing of police officers and the City budget.
16. Elle, regarding Manuel Ellis and the firing of police officers.
17. Erin Lungwitz, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, the firing of police officers, the City budget, and the NWIPC.
18. Kyle Jolibois, regarding two pipelines that were shut down in the United States, liquefied natural gas (LNG), the City budget, and the firing of police officers.
19. Caitlin Modine, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, the City budget, and the firing of police officers.
20. Guion Rosenzweig, regarding the firing of police officers and Manuel Ellis.
21. Sulan Mlynarek, regarding the firing of police officers, Manuel Ellis's family, and the City budget.
22. Orion Benedict, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, the firing of police officers, and the City budget.
23. Alicia LeDuc, regarding the firing of police officers.
24. Preethi Manoha, regarding Manuel Ellis and the firing of police officers.
25. Mo Lewis, regarding the City budget, Manuel Ellis's family, and the firing of police officers.
26. Nicholas Wees, regarding Manuel Ellis's family and the firing of

- police officers.
27. Kathy Lawhon, regarding written comments submitted to the Council, the firing of police officers and the police chief, body cameras, and the NWIPC.
  28. Jenny Schlatter, regarding Council Members and the firing of police officers.
  29. Saiyare Refaei, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, the City budget, police presence in schools, the firing of police officers and the police chief, and the NWIPC.
  30. Asha Berkes, regarding the firing of police officers and the City budget.
  31. Les Pogue, regarding the firing of police officers, LNG, and the NWIPC.
  32. Miles Styer, regarding the firing of police officers and the City budget.
  33. Haiku, regarding the firing of police officers and the police chief, police reform, and Manuel Ellis's family.
  34. Kyra Doubek, regarding the City budget and the firing of police officers.
  35. Shannon Lopez, regarding the City budget and the firing of police officers.
  36. Alex Scheel, regarding the COVID-19 crisis and impacts, and the City budget.
  37. Darrylynn Penney, regarding homelessness, the firing of police officers, and the TPD.
  38. Elle Marie, regarding Manuel Ellis, religion, and police officers.
  39. Elise S., regarding Juneteenth Day, the firing of police officers, and the City budget.
  40. Aaron Barfield, regarding the cannabis industry in Washington, Manuel Ellis, and the TPD.
  41. Caitlin Steller, regarding Manuel Ellis's family and the firing of police officers.
  42. Pamela Ferguson, regarding experiences with police departments.
  43. Passia, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, Washington State Initiative 940 (I-940), and the firing of police officers.
  44. Trevor Kagochi, regarding the firing of police officers and the City budget.
  45. Dana Levy, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, the firing of police officers, and the City budget.
  46. Dylan Ruggeri, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, the City budget, the firing of police officers, and the NWIPC.
  47. Chris S., regarding Public Disclosure Requests and Council Members.
  48. Whitney Ellis, regarding Manuel Ellis, the TPD, and demand for action.
  49. Erin Ray, regarding Manuel Ellis's family, the firing of police officers, the City budget, the NWIPC, and LNG.
  50. Samantha Bartlett, regarding Manuel Ellis's family and the firing of police officers.
  51. JL, regarding the TPD, body cameras, Council Members, the City budget, and Manuel Ellis.

- 52. Matthew Ellis, regarding Manuel Ellis.
- 53. Alexa, regarding the City budget and Council Members.

Mayor Woodards provided updates and remarks, including the Sheriff's Department is budgeted through the Pierce County Council and is an elected position, a survey is available online to address City budget priorities, the process to implement body cameras, transformation of the entire institution and the start up of a new webpage outlining timelines and all of the work currently being done for transformation, a webpage is available for updates on I-940 and police incidents, and Council Members' response to emails and commitment to the community.

Community Forum ended at 7:13 p.m.

### **REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli announced that January 1, 2021, is the implementation date for body cameras.

### **COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

There were no standing committee reports given.

Deputy Mayor Blocker thanked all of the community members who expressed their concerns, stating their words, support, and call to action is encouraging and pushes the Council to take action as well as pushes the community abroad to care more. He concluded by listing additional entities and representatives the community can reach out to in regards to concerns about police transformation and all other disparities that impact black, brown, and indigenous communities.

Mayor Woodards thanked Manuel Ellis's family for calling in and continuing to be advocates.

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to excuse Council Members Beale, Thoms, and McCarthy from the meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Hunter.**

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

**Ayes:** 6 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards


**Absent:** 3 - Beale, McCarthy and Thoms

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Mayor Woodards reminded everyone that COVID-19 cases are still rising in Tacoma and asked everyone to wear your mask, wash your hands, and social distance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

  
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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

  
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Doris Sorum, City Clerk