



City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 868 2412 7684 Passcode: 614650

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/86824127684

September 22, 2020

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker,
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived at 10:04 a.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Approval of Minutes

1. [20-0608](#) Approval of the minutes of the September 1, 2020, special meeting

MOTION: Council Member McCarthy moved to approve the minutes of the September 1, 2020, special meeting.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

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

Ayes: 3 - McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Briefing Items

2. [20-0609](#) Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan
 [Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager]

At approximately 10:03 a.m., Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced Don Meyer, Commissioner, Port of Tacoma.

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived here, at 10:04 a.m.

Commissioner Meyer presented the Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan update, including City and Port partnership efforts; the competitive position of the Port; background; an outline of the Port's Strategic Plan; a Strategic Plan timeline; and opportunities for input, noting an online open house, an online survey, and the utilization of phone calls and email for feedback.

Discussion ensued regarding the partnership between the City and the Port of Tacoma, opportunities for improving said partnership, communication and outreach, sharing City contacts for community engagement, consideration of input, parcel capacity, creating common goals between the Port and the City, and outreach with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [20-0610](#) September 29, 2020 - To be determined
 October 13, 2020 - City Events and Recognition Committee interviews

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be on September 29, 2020, and the topics are to be determined.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Ushka requested information regarding businesses that have closed due to COVID-19, including the number of businesses impacted and business owner demographics.

Council Member McCarthy stated the City's Geographic Information Systems team may be able to provide maps with business licensing information and property owner data. He expressed his interest in hearing a presentation on business closures and how the City can assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19.

Chair Thoms expressed his interest in hearing a presentation on what information people provide when starting a business, business owner demographics, and how funds have been used to assist small businesses.

Deputy Mayor Blocker expressed interest in hearing a presentation on how City funds have been used to help businesses impacted by COVID-19 and how those businesses are doing after receiving those funds.

Chair Thoms further requested information on the ability to track business closures, repurposing restaurant areas that have closed, and the possibility of allowing alcohol in areas of concentrated restaurants.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.



Robert Thoms, Chair



Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office