



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 868 82412 7684

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/86824127684](https://www.zoom.us/j/86824127684) Passcode: 614650

**November 24, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

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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 10:05 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 4 - Blocker, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

## Approval of Minutes

1. [20-0886](#) Approval of the minutes of the November 10, 2020, meeting

**MOTION: Council Member McCarthy moved to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020, meeting**

**SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 4 - Blocker, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

## Briefing Items

2. [20-0884](#) Safe and Clean Initiative Update  
[Andrew Torres, Assistant Division Manager, and Lewis Griffith, Solid Waste Management Division Manager, Environmental Services]

At approximately 10:06 a.m., Mike Slevin, Director, Environmental Services (ES), introduced Andrew Torres, Assistant Division Manager, and Lewis Griffith, Solid Waste Management Division Manager, ES, and made opening remarks regarding the start of the Safe and Clean Initiative.

Mr. Griffith presented the clean and sanitary downtown case options, including an overview; downtown Business Improvement Area Solid Waste concerns; contributing factors to those concerns; and the Solid Waste collection system enhancements and proposed test area. Mr. Torres outlined the public litter can proposal benefits and costs; the recommended centralized collection system; compactor upgrades on 8th Street and Court A; centralized collection system costs and barriers to success; stakeholder feedback, noting a preference for the centralized collection system; outreach; and next steps. Mr. Griffith concluded by stating the two proposals have separate funding sources.

Discussion ensued regarding cost savings, the frequency of maintenance and cleaning, impacts of automated trash compactors, implementation costs, funding, proposed locations, timeline of the pilot updates, art and advertising opportunities, security in roofed collection systems, collection system infrastructure, improving curb appeal, transporting refuse, procuring the public litter cans, and bringing updates to the Committee.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [20-0885](#) December 8, 2020 - Juneteenth Celebration; Retail Cannabis in Tacoma

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be held on December 8, 2020, and will include presentations on Juneteenth celebrations and retail cannabis in Tacoma.

## Other Items of Interest

Chair Thoms expressed interest in having a discussion on service employees and their current struggles.

Discussion ensued regarding having that discussion during a Committee meeting, including other organizations in the discussion, and managing the scope of the topic.

Chair Thoms stated he would be interested in discussing an increase of the Business & Occupation Tax limit.

Discussion ensued regarding revenue and costs to business owners in the City, and an assessment on a potential budget amendment.

## Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Damien Erwin, speaking on the Safe and Clean Initiative update.

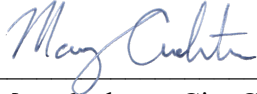
## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.



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Robert Thoms, Chair



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Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office