



# City of Tacoma

## City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](http://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Passcode: 896569

**November 10, 2020**

**12:00 PM**

---

### Call to Order

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

### Roll Call

**Present:** 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Briefing Items

1. [20-0819](#) Proposed Budget Updates 2021-2022

At approximately 12:06 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance. Ms. Johnston presented the proposed budget updates for 2021-2022, including the agenda and the legislative calendar.

City Attorney Bill Fosbre reviewed the difference between fees and taxes.

Ms. Johnston presented the fee schedule; body camera fees; fire fees and transport fees; special events fees; cable franchise fees, noting the current state and the 2021-2022 proposed budget; Washington Initiative 976 updates, noting street operations adjustments and Real Estate Excise Tax adjustments; and general fund amendments.

Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department, presented basic life support (BLS) implementation, noting staffing, timing, costs, and revenues; delayed or staggered implementation of BLS, noting relevant dates in 2021 and changes from the current proposal; a comparison of the implementation options; and additional implementation alternatives.

Discussion ensued regarding implementation options, budget cuts, selecting which fire engines would be cut, effects on level of service and response time, possible risks to fire fighters, impact on and factors of the City's fire

service rating, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reserve levels and usage, service coverage, determining whether an emergency call requires advanced or basic life support and the difference between vehicles and personnel sent to each call, training capabilities, using General Fund reserves to cover expenses, using money from the General Fund versus money from the EMS fund, and impacts to the General Fund if no fire engines were cut.

2. [20-0820](#) Home In Tacoma Project Update

At approximately 2:01 p.m., Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Manager, Media and Communications Office, presented the Home in Tacoma Project update, including a definition of the project related to affordable housing, noting objectives, goals, and actions; and an agenda.

Brian Boudet, Division Manager, Planning and Development Services (PDS), presented what the housing need is; Tacoma housing prices over the past five years; the shortage of affordable rental units; the challenges of homeownership; areas of high opportunity versus home values by area; housing actions to meet multiple goals; and policy direction for the goal of housing supply, affordability, and choice.

Elliot Barnett, Senior Planner, PDS, presented the Home in Tacoma Project actions, noting diversifying housing types, improving affordability tools, and key considerations; engagement and analysis; next steps; diverse housing types; what missing middle housing can look like; design features that are critical for infill; potential impacts of infill; affordable housing incentives; and topics for further discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding housing costs versus wages, public engagement, zoning, clarity in community outreach, public health, access to public transportation, urban gardening, wealth and race gaps in housing, design feature standards, housing density, requirements for infill development, off-street parking, lot sizes, affordability and wealth building, code enforcement, scale and functionality of existing neighborhoods, addressing impacts and stressors of growth and density, which policies are increasing housing availability in the City, detached accessory dwelling units and the housing they created, working with developers, and increasing density across the City and not just in certain neighborhoods.

3. [20-0821](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 3:29 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, ways for the community to participate in the Chief of Police recruitment, community feedback to

21CP Solutions, next steps timeline, and the draft transformation timeline.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [20-0822](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, November 5, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's agenda, one proclaiming Wednesday, November 11, 2020, as Veterans Day, and one proclaiming November 2020 as Native American Heritage Month. She further stated there are no expected changes to tonight's agenda.

## Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Doris Sorum, City Clerk