



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

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

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

November 24, 2020

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, McCarthy, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Hunter and Thoms

All Council Members participated virtually.

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:49 p.m.

Briefing Items

1. [20-0905](#) Potential 2021-2022 Proposed Budget Updates to include Basic Life Support and Fire Department Amendments

At approximately 12:08 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli provided opening remarks and introduced Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, and Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD).

Chief Green presented on the operational impacts and considerations related to retaining engine service levels with Basic Life Support (BLS) implementation versus a modified engine proposal with BLS implementation.

Ms. Johnston presented on financial impacts and considerations for the two proposals, impacts on the projected 2023-2024 budget gap, and a summary of the exhibits presented in the 2021-2022 proposed budget ordinance on tonight's agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the amendments, updated local and State revenue projections, use of reserve funds, impacts of additional cuts to the General Fund, and the Council's budget process.

The study session recessed at 12:36 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 12:49 p.m.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:49 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding clarifying the proposals; the process to amend the budget; past City Council promises; economic uncertainty; evaluating impacts to all departments; additional impacts of General Fund cuts, including service reductions and project deferrals; identifying essential services and prioritizing cuts; one-time cuts versus ongoing reductions; previous budget decisions; service levels, fire engine response times, staff deployment and dispatch, and number of staff under each scenario; appreciation for staff; and next steps.

2. [20-0890](#) Planning Commission's Recommendations on the 2020 Annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment

At approximately 1:33 p.m., Stephen Atkinson, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services (PDS), introduced Larry Harala, Senior Planner, PDS, and presented the Planning Commission's recommendations on proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Regulatory Code, including an overview; list of amendment applications; the amendment process; public outreach and engagement; the Heidelberg-Davis site proposal, noting a summary, community concerns, the Planning Commission's findings and recommendation; the View Sensitive Overlay District (VSD) proposal, noting an overview, analysis and location criteria, map, and the Planning Commission's findings and recommendations; minor plan and code amendments, noting the Planning Commission's recommendations; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding zoning and potential uses of the Heidelberg-Davis site, history of the VSD, building height restrictions, impacts on infill housing, and the proposed ordinances.

3. [20-0891](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 2:19 p.m., City Manager Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, noting interviews for the Heal the Heart of Tacoma Core Coordinating Team, anti-racist focused budget development, Chief of Police recruitment, body worn cameras, and the legislative agenda; a request for community input on the current state of Tacoma Police Department operations; the systems transformation update table; the 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. [20-0892](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and the City Council, November 19, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's agenda, proclaiming Saturday, November 28, 2020, as Small Business Saturday; and that multiple changes are expected to tonight's agenda, including a substitute ordinance to correct Solid Waste rates, a substitute ordinance to correct an error in the exhibits for the partial engine BLS proposal; amendments to correct Neighborhood and Community Services and Emergency Medical Services funds, and the amendments discussed during today's study session.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Doris Sorum, City Clerk