



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

March 16, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:02 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Council Member McCarthy arrived at 12:27 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0265](#) American Rescue Plan Update

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office, provided opening remarks and introduced Jen Covino, President, Simon and Company. Ms. Covino presented a briefing on the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, including an initial estimate that \$63.03 million will be allocated to the City of Tacoma; estimated funding for Pierce County and Washington State; the expected timeline for receipt and use of funds; eligible uses, noting pandemic response, essential workers, government services, and water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure investments; prohibited and allowed options to transfer funds; project recommendations; and other direct aid and regional funding sources, noting Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief, public health, emergency rental and housing, utilities, transportation, economic development and public works, nutrition and individual assistance, education, small business assistance, and employee assistance.

Discussion ensued regarding broadband service for students, vaccine distribution to underserved populations, and capital projects and property

acquisition related to housing.

Council Member McCarthy arrived here, at 12:27 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding funding availability, reporting, and timelines; changing requirements for housing funds; partnering with the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department; non-congregate housing; and next steps, noting additional discussion at the March 23, 2021, study session.

2. [21-0266](#) Heal the Heart Update

At approximately 12:34 p.m., Patricia Colemon, Principal Consultant, Colemon and Associates, provided opening remarks and introduced Annie Jones-Barnes, Principal Consultant, Colemon and Associates, and Priya Saxena and Patricia Flores, members, Heal the Heart of Tacoma Core Coordinating Team (CCT). Together, Ms. Jones-Barnes and Ms. Colemon reviewed the CCT membership; how the CCT operates, noting norms, behaviors, mindsets, and decision-making processes; the draft team charter; top systems for transformation, noting housing, environment, public safety, economy, healthcare, and education; the timeline to complete the charter and establish transformation teams; and next steps. Ms. Saxena and Ms. Flores described the CCT's progress, goals, norms, impacts of COVID-19, and request clarity on the City Council's vision.

Discussion ensued regarding the City Council's role and input on the CCT goals and vision, involving community elders, how the transformation teams are being formed, definitions and goals, timelines and scale of the CCT's work, coordinating with other community partners, ongoing impacts of the CCT's work, identifying barriers, ways to recognize racism and encourage open dialogues, educating and involving the entire community, Council Member involvement on transformation teams, and ongoing work.

3. [21-0267](#) Fire Engine Update

At approximately 1:33 p.m., Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department, presented an update on the fire engine that was scheduled to be placed out of service in 2021, including an overview of the 2021-2022 adopted budget, noting plans to eliminate one fire engine in April 2021 and staggered implementation of the Basic Life Support (BLS) transport program; options to restore the eliminated fire engine; an overview of fire engine numbers and BLS staffing; funding considerations, noting use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; the need for an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy lid lift; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding ARPA funds, timing for an EMS levy lid lift ballot item, using levy funds to cover BLS costs to residents, Pierce County Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act funds, and other funding considerations.

The study session recessed at 2:00 p.m.

The study session reconvened at 2:11 p.m.

4. [21-0268](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 2:12 p.m., City Manager Elizabeth Pauli presented the systems transformation update, including new items, noting leadership review of the Workforce Equity Study and availability of the draft final report from 21CP Solutions by the end of week; the systems transformation update table; the next steps timeline; and a long range transformation timeline.

Other Items of Interest

5. [21-0269](#) Council Consideration Request - Speed Exhibitions

Council Member Hunter presented a Council Consideration Request for an ordinance to address speed exhibitions, noting ongoing conversations with other municipalities, elements of the proposed ordinance, the data analysis requirement, and regional coordination on legislation.

Discussion ensued regarding regional discussions and coordination, the Tacoma Police Department incident in January 2021, providing legitimate options for street exhibitions, developing a policy and enforcement plan, reporting requirements, data on race, scope of the ordinance, types of offenses, incorporating the Vision Zero program, street design, comparing the proposal with to 'race-free' zone legislation, and next steps to place the proposed ordinance on the March 23, 2021, City Council meeting agenda.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 6. [21-0270](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, March 11, 2021

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there is one ceremonial on tonight's agenda, proclaiming March 2021 as Women's History Month, and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

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Mayor Woodards stated she has been presenting information on the South Sound Housing Affordability Partnership to cities, and will be attending the Fife City Council meeting tonight at 6:00 p.m. for a presentation.

7. Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to a Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

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


Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

The Closed Session was held after adjournment of the study session.


Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor


Doris Sorum, City Clerk