



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 30, 2021

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:01 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Blocker

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived at 1:37 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0307](#) South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

At approximately 12:03 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks and introduced John Howell, Partner, Cedar River Group, and Marty Kooistra, Executive Director, Housing Development Consortium. Mr. Howell presented on the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP), noting accessibility, affordability, and attainability as primary goals. Mr. Kooistra outlined the status of Pierce County housing; rent increases in Pierce County cities during 2020; a history of SSHAP from 2018 to present; Tacoma's involvement with SSHAP; the ideas behind and value of SSHAP, noting other agencies using a similar model; options for what SSHAP might do, noting policies, programs, and annual work plans; and what SSHAP will not do. Mr. Howell concluded by reviewing how government agencies can volunteer to participate in SSHAP, the governments currently considering participating through an intergovernmental agreement (IGA), next steps for the draft IGA and government participation, specifics of the IGA, financial commitment, and the goal to provide different housing types for different income levels across Pierce County.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for IGA approval and funding, possible funds available through House Bill (HB) 1506, involving the

Pierce County Regional Council, shared priorities for addressing homelessness, timelines and issues with coordinating intergovernmental partnerships, prioritizing funding and efforts locally in Tacoma versus regionally, similar efforts in other regions, representation, long range planning staff, creating a new governmental entity, reporting requirements, preserving existing housing, the regional approach, and next steps.

2. [21-0310](#) Sound Transit Project Updates and Realignment

At approximately 12:58 p.m., Brian Boudet, Planning Division Manager, Planning and Development Services, provided opening remarks regarding Sound Transit (ST) project updates and realignment. Andrew Austin, Government and Community Relations Manager, ST, reviewed the agenda and introduced Peter Rogoff, Chief Executive Officer, Sue Comis, Project Manager, Madeleine Greathouse, Light Rail Project Manager, and Liz Ellis, Community Engagement Specialist, ST. Mr. Rogoff presented realignment of ST expansion plans, noting financial changes due to lower revenue and higher costs, offsets, and the overall affordability gap; realignment tools available; and next steps. Ms. Comis provided an update on the Tacoma Dome Link Extension (TDLE) project, including locations for the four new stations, the environmental review timeline, fall 2020 outreach, community feedback related to the Portland Avenue and Tacoma Dome stations, and next steps. Ms. Greathouse presented an update on the Hilltop Tacoma Link Extension (HTLE) project, including project status; status of rail work; work in progress on Stadium Way, the Stadium District, Hilltop, and the Operations and Maintenance Facilities (OMF). Ms. Ellis reviewed community outreach for the HTLE project and the Loyal to the Local program. Mr. Austin concluded by reviewing additional ST project updates, including OMF South, noting its relationship to the TDLE project, the three potential sites, and options to participate and comment; the South Tacoma Sounder Station access improvements project, noting project activities and milestones, and external engagement; and the Point Defiance Bypass project, noting an overview, general project update, and project timeline.

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived here, at 1:37 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding a pedestrian crossing over Interstate 5, funding and timelines, destinations for Link riders, regional goals, the Puyallup Avenue project, and status of future project designs.

3. [21-0311](#) Homelessness Update

At approximately 1:55 p.m., Linda Stewart, Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), provided opening remarks regarding homelessness efforts and introduced Matthew Jorgensen, Program Development Specialist, Keidrick O'Bannon, Homeless Outreach Team Program Development Specialist, Tiegan Tidball, Systems Analyst, Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, and Klarissa Monteros, Interim Homeless Program Manager, NCS. Ms. Stewart presented updates on homelessness services, including an overview; background, noting COVID-19 impacts, a shelter inventory, and review of the City's homeless strategy; updates on the hygiene station pilot program; and the trash and debris pilot programs. Ms. Tidball reviewed the draft five-year homeless strategy, including high-level goals, community engagement, and a timeline. Ms. Griffith provided an analysis of city-owned properties reviewed for a temporary mitigation and stabilization site, the review process, and the recommended site at South 69th Street and South Proctor Street. Chris Bacha, Chief Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, outlined encumbrances on the property related to a Local Improvement District (LID), and options to remove the properties from the LID fund. Ms. Griffith concluded by reviewing next steps related to the temporary mitigation and stabilization site, noting City Council support, site preparation and service planning, community engagement, and encampment outreach; and next steps for the five-year strategy, noting continued engagement, surveying individuals with lived experience, and plans for a future update to the City Council in April 2021.

Discussion ensued regarding possible site locations and designs, operations, ensuring low barriers to entry, community concerns, comparisons to the existing stabilization site and emergency micro-shelter sites, providing opportunities to develop employment skills, timelines, alternate sites located at South 35th Street and Union Avenue and at South 35th Street and Pacific Avenue, past and current issues around the City, opportunities to expand the hygiene station pilot program, a proposed camping ordinance, and next steps.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to direct staff to consider the property located at South 35th Street and Union Avenue for a temporary mitigation and stabilization site.

SECONDED BY: Council Member McCarthy.

Mayor Woodards made a friendly amendment to add the phrase “and the property located at South 69th Street and Proctor Street” to the motion.

The friendly amendment was accepted by Council Member Hunter.

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

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

MOTION: Council Member McCarthy moved to direct staff to consider the property located at South 35th Street and Pacific Avenue for a temporary mitigation and stabilization site.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Thoms.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and failed. The motion was declared failed.

Ayes: 1 - McCarthy

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

4. [21-0312](#) Systems Transformation

At approximately 3:23 p.m., Deputy City Manager Tadd Wille stated that the systems transformation update has been posted to the City website.

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Deputy City Manager Wille stated that HB 1070, related to sales tax for affordable housing, and HB 1090, prohibiting private detention centers, both passed earlier today.

Other Items of Interest

5. [21-0318](#) Council Consideration Request - An Ordinance Amending the State of Emergency Related to Homelessness and Committing to Participation in the Citywide Efforts to End Homelessness

Mayor Woodards presented a Council Consideration Request for an ordinance declaring the Mayor and City Council's support of Pierce County and Tacoma Pierce County Coalition to End Homelessness, staff participation in the coalition, and amending the State of Emergency related to homelessness to add annual review by the City Council.

Discussion ensued regarding the City's expired camping ordinance.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [21-0313](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, March 25, 2021

Deputy City Manager Wille stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's agenda, and that a Substitute Ordinance No. 28747 related to sales tax is expected on tonight's agenda.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Doris Sorum, City Clerk