



# 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

**September 14, 2021**

**12:00 PM**

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### Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the study session to order at 12:03 p.m.

### Roll Call

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

**Absent:** 2 - McCarthy and Thoms

Council Member Thoms arrived at 1:48 p.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

### Executive Session - Potential Litigation

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

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

**Ayes:** 7 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

**Absent:** 2 - McCarthy and Thoms

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre and Bob Christie, Partner, Christie Law Group, were present.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 12:43 p.m.

## Briefing Items

1. [21-0886](#) Mid-Biennial Budget Modifications

At approximately 12:44 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Office of Management and Budget, presented on the 2021-2022 mid-biennial budget modifications, including an agenda; economic indicators from 2018 to present, noting consumer sentiment, unemployment, population, median household income, housing prices, and the regional Consumer Price Index; a General Fund (GF) update through July 2021, noting \$8.6 million more in revenues, \$8.8 million less in expenditures, and a comparison of budgeted amounts and actuals by revenue category; GF revenue annual trends, noting reprojected budget amounts and differences from the adopted budget; GF expenditure variances through July 2021; a summary of GF one-time and ongoing expenses; considerations related to structural deficit, one-time and ongoing expenditures; structural gaps, noting future impacts and the option to reduce the gap; and financial updates for other funds. She concluded by providing an overview of the budget modification process and timeline, including the budget as a tool for policy, operations, and finances; the purpose of mid-biennial budget modifications, noting priorities set by the City Council; a request for City Council direction; and major dates and deadlines.

Discussion ensued regarding maintenance of theaters and other venues, methods for Council Members to make recommendations, and timelines for updated lists and review.

2. [21-0887](#) Rental Housing Code Update

At approximately 1:18 p.m., Jacques Colon, Tacoma 2025 Strategic Manager, Media and Communications Office, presented an update on the Tacoma Rental Housing Code, including an overview of the Affordable Housing Action Strategy objectives, noting the focus on actions to help people stay in their homes and communities; and a summary of the proposed changes to Tacoma Municipal Code (TMC) Chapter 1.95. Steven Sawada, Senior Continuous Improvement Analyst, Human Resources, reviewed the background of TMC Chapter 1.95, including previous legislation, staff research, and presentations related to just cause evictions. ChiQuata Elder, Landlord-Tenant/ Crime Free Housing Coordinator, Office of Equity and Human Rights, further outlined rental issues, noting the rental market, alignment with Washington State law, enforcement, and access to free eviction prevention legal services; engagement with stakeholders; a summary of the proposed code updates; review of proposed changes, noting related

State laws, reasons for or impacts of changes, and impact of stakeholder review; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff; the Community Vitality and Safety Committee recommendations and support; impacts to the community; a goal to implement revisions by September 30, 2021; and comparisons to City of Philadelphia policies, noting rental assistance, funding sources for the right to counsel, and court requirements to bring evictions forward.

## Other Items of Interest

### 3. [21-0888](#) Manuel Ellis Investigation Update

Mike Ake, Interim Chief, Tacoma Police Department, provided an update on the Manuel Ellis Investigation, including an announcement by the Washington State Patrol that they are reopening the investigation, possible impacts, investigation timeline, the process to complete written reports, completion of officer interviews, and scheduling interviews for members of the public.

Discussion ensued regarding the initial timeline estimate, delays, and next steps.

## Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

## Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

### 4. [21-0889](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, September 9, 2021

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that there are four ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming September 13-19, 2021, as National Small Business Week; proclaiming September 15-October 15, 2021, as Hispanic and Latine Heritage Month; a Compassionate Tacoma recognition of Oscar's Enemies; and a systems transformation update.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 1:48 p.m.

City Manager Pauli concluded by stating that no changes are expected on tonight's agenda.

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Mayor Woodards stated that she has submitted her resignation to the Sound Transit Board, and the Pierce County Executive has agreed to appoint Council Member Walker in her place; and staff will bring forward a resolution on next week’s agenda to update Council Member board and committee appointments to appoint Council Member Walker to the Sound Transit Board. Council Member Walker expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Council Member Walker stated that she attended the opening of the new women’s shelter at the Tacoma Rescue Mission on September 10, 2021, and expressed appreciation for City staff and the public-private partnership that helped complete the project.

Mayor Woodards stated that the Tidy-Up Tacoma initiative began on Monday, September 13, 2021, and more information is available online at [cityoftacoma.org/tidyup](http://cityoftacoma.org/tidyup).

Council Member Hunter stated that renovations at the Tacoma Mall were complete and new stores have opened, and congratulated the businesses there on a successful project.

**Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:54 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Doris Sorum, City Clerk