



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 882 2753 9908

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/88227539908](https://www.zoom.us/j/88227539908) Passcode: 614650

**January 12, 2021**

**10:00 AM**

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Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Keith Blocker,  
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

## Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 3 - Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - McCarthy

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Approval of Minutes

1. [21-0064](#) Approval of the minutes of the November 24, 2020, meeting

**MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2020, meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - McCarthy

## Briefing Items

2. [21-0060](#) Election of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Thoms stated the election of Chair and Vice Chair will be postponed to allow Council Members to decide if they are interested.

3. [21-0061](#) Status and Prospects: Federal Funding for COVID Recovery  
[Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:12 a.m. Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development, provided opening remarks and introduced Tim Thompson, Chief Executive, Thompson Consulting Group. Thompson gave an informative briefing regarding federal funding for COVID recovery, including the creation of a public network to organize the South Sound community to be competitive for federal infrastructure investments; the community effort to prepare “shovel ready” projects; that coalition diversity is crucial; organizing to be competitive for federal investments; the need to understand and address COVID pandemic impacts, noting high case and death rates, the importance of employment and safety, and that the economy and infrastructure cannot get back on track until the pandemic is under control; focus on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act; that loans go to small- and medium-sized businesses; and how the community can redefine infrastructure projects that effect issues such as homelessness, housing, broadband expansion, green infrastructure, equity, and income inequality.

Discussion ensued regarding whether a project or policy list was needed; broadband expansion; what was meant by small- or medium-sized businesses; business owners' thoughts of the current re-opening phase system; regular transportation infrastructure; and specific policies to help with the CARES Act.

4. [21-0062](#) Special Events Competitive Funding Process  
[Kim Bedier, Director; Kala Dralle, Program Development Specialist, Tacoma Venues and Events]

At approximately 10:55 a.m., Kim Bedier, Director, and Kala Dralle, Program Development Specialist, Tacoma Venues and Events, provided a presentation on the special events competitive funding process, including an overview; background information; issues; health, equity, and sustainability analysis; next steps; and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding whether some legacy events would be stopped; whether this topic needs to go before the full City Council, who would receive funding under the new criteria, and clarification about budget changes.

**MOTION: Council Member Ushka moved to forward the proposed Special Events funding process to the full City Council.**

**SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Blocker.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Blocker, Thoms and Ushka

**Absent:** 1 - McCarthy

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [21-0063](#) January 26, 2021 - Training and Employment Program Updates

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be on January 26, 2021, and will include the election of Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee and an update on training and employment programs.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.



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Robert Thoms, Chair



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Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office