



# City of Tacoma Economic Development Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 868 2412 7684

Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/86824127684](https://www.zoom.us/j/86824127684) Passcode: 614650

**August 24, 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 10:04 a.m.

## Roll Call

**Present:** 4 - Blocker, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

All Council Members participated virtually.

## Briefing Items

1. [21-0826](#) American Rescue Plan Act Livable Wage Jobs Bucket Continued Conversation  
[Reid Bennion, Lead Management Analyst, Office of Management and Budget]

At approximately 10:05 a.m., Reid Bennion, Lead Budget Analyst, Office of Management and Budget, presented on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) livable wage jobs bucket, including an overview, 2021 ARPA distributions, projects up for consideration, livable wage jobs, community bases partnership and non-profit stabilization support criteria, example next steps, and a timeline.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding a \$100,000 increase to small business relief funding and how that impacted the funding of other items, items that lost funding, transference of items to non-profit funding, the non-profit funding qualification process, a request for a full City Council review of ARPA spending, how the ARPA spending will be reviewed by the full City Council, after school care funding levels, how items were selected or removed from the list, acquiring funding for non-profits, the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Chamber of Commerce, potential uses of future ARPA funds, ARPA review at a Committee of the Whole special meeting, a timeline for next steps, and the next round of funding.

2. [21-0827](#) Small Business Assistance Continued Conversation  
[Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:58 a.m., Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development (CED), gave an overview and introduced Dierdre Patterson, Contract and Program Auditor, CED. Ms. Patterson presented on small business financial assistance, including an overview; 2020-2021 COVID-19 funding, noting the City of Tacoma's funding total and unmet demand; small business recipient demographics; updated results of the COVID-19 survey, noting business operating status, percentage of businesses who obtained grants and loans from sources other than the City, percentage of businesses who still need funding, and the kinds of technical assistance businesses would find most helpful; lessons learned; and ARPA recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding prior confusion caused by the differences between City and Pierce County assistance programs, broadening the full time equivalent employee qualifications even further, why the eligibility date was moved back by three months, removing barriers to help more businesses qualify for assistance, and business size requirements.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-0828](#) August 31, 2021 - Tacoma Anchor Network Update; Minority Business Development Agency: Tacoma Business Center 2016-2021 Performance Summary Report

Lynda Foster, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on August 31, 2021, and will include a Tacoma Anchor Network update, and that the Minority Business Development Agency report has been postponed to a later date.

## 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 11:19 a.m.



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Robert Thoms, Chair



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Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office

