

## League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps

Name of Agency: Tacoma City Council

Date: Sept 11, 2011

Observer Reporting: C Rikerd

Length of Meeting: 80 Minutes

Members Present/Absent: All council members present, Mayor Woodard presiding

Others present (i.e. media, public): Citizens' Forum meeting, open public comments

**Content (what is being discussed):** *Did they approve some action?*

*Does anything relate to League priorities or positions? If so, do you recommend local League action?*

*Was access to materials for certain agenda items limited or excluded from you? Was background material available to the public?*

- All background material is available online. Access is through the agenda PDFs.
- The Council proclaimed the week of September 14-23 as Welcoming Week for immigrants and refugees.
- RES40097 and RES40098 passed unanimously. Both resolutions are letters of agreement with Tacoma Police Management Association, Local 26 and the city's Human Resources office.
- --97 authorizes a portion of accrued sick leave and time off leave to have \$\$ value at retirement.
- --98 authorizes a pay rate increase for personnel working in the Homicide Unit
- ORD28528 first reading amends Ch1.12 of the Municipal Code for the above changes. Full text available online.

**Public Meetings of interest to League** – i.e., were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with the issue?

- **ORD 28527 Final Reading extends the prohibitions relating to temporary tenant protections contains in Amended Ordinance No 28508, from 9/30/18 to 10/31/18.**
- **These ordinances are in response to the abrupt tenant removal from the Tiki apartments when the building was sold.**
- **The Council meeting 10/2/18 is the date for a public hearing by the Council on amending Ch. 1.95 of the Municipal Code, relating to Tenant Rights Code, by adding a "Tenant Relocation Assistance" section.**

### Citizens' Forum Comments

Original announcement of a Tideflats Subarea Plan:

<http://www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/one.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=125245>

Tideflats Plan:

<http://cms.cityoftacoma.org/Planning/Tideflats/Subarea%20Plan/Tideflats%20Subarea%20Plan%20Handout.pdf>

- Two representative for Citizens for a Healthy Bay spoke of the need to reconfirm the interim regulations (passed Nov 21, 2017, to be effective for 1 year) of tideflats development to limit heavy industry and the expansion of fossil fuel industry. It was noted that the Council is still participating in the Climate Accord though the federal government is not. The Council, Port and Tribe are encouraged to re-engage in planning.
- Speaker against the liquid natural gas plant.

- Speaker concerned about the use of housing vouchers to release multiple sex offenders from McNeil into Lakewood.
- Downtown-on-the-Go announced a bike trail ride.
- Advocate for tenants removed from the Merkle apartments explained that the monthly income of the aged, blind or disabled from the federal SSI program was \$750-\$790 per month. The apartments labeled low income in construction under the tax remission plan will rent for \$950 without utilities. Low income residents are priced out when the building plans are approved.
- Speaker asked if the council could help negotiations between Tacoma District 10 and the teachers union.
- Speaker reported road collapse at the intersection of 38<sup>th</sup> & Asotin that is threatening the foundations of homes. *The Mayor had a staff member meet with the resident immediately to take a full report and refer to public works.*
- Speaker (health care professional) listed the potential health hazards from liquid natural gas pollution.
- Speaker contested the cost of municipal broadband to reach 1 gigabyte delivery; also objected to Advanced Stream internet service company not being represented on the researching the municipal wireless future.
- Speaker asked the city to help with more rallies about climate change.
- Speaker asked Council to get back to negotiations on the Tideflats Subarea Plan.
- Speaker pointed out the ICE prison, St. Joseph and Tacoma General Hospitals are in the 3.5 mile blast zone in the event of a liquid natural gas plant explosion.
- Two speakers asked Council to help negotiate teacher contracts to end strike, and pass a resolution supporting teachers.
- Speaker asked Council to revoke the GEO business license for the ICE prison due to threat of liquid natural gas incident.
- Speaker against liquid natural gas plant.
- Speaker said landlord retaliated against her for protesting rent increase.
- **PSE representative reported the liquid natural gas tank is in the final stages of construction.** Members of the audience called out that PSE had no final permit to build the tank. *The Mayor called for order and civility.*
- Speaker requested the Council to reauthorize participation in the federal **Land and Water Conservation Fund** (expires 9/30/18) program, asking the Council to offer support to our federal Senators and Representatives in renewing this federal funding which has **granted about \$500 million to Metro Parks for ongoing development.**
- Speaker asked Council to support continuation of Click! cable to give lower income residents cable access.
- Student moving from home schooling to Foss High School asked the Council to support Tacoma teachers. This young man spoke eloquently about the Tacoma teachers who had supported his home school studies, and was applauded (not allowed) by the audience.
- Speaker addressed lack of medical care at ICE prison, and asked Council to revoke GEO's business license.

### Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Ibsen reported the Government Performance and Finance Committee met Aug 21 and heard 2 presentations; from IT director on digital equity, and from Planning and Development Services Department on the potential annexation of the Manitou neighborhood.

### Process & Protocol (Observations about participants, conduct, and procedures of the meeting, and appropriate accommodations for disabled in sight hearing and physical):

i.e., Did the members appear to have done their "homework"? Were members courteous to each other and the public? How does the group respond to your presence?

Council members appear very well informed, were courteous even when calling for order when some disruptions occurred during the Citizens' Forum. The council meeting room has good accommodation for disabled members of the audience.

*Mayor Woodard graciously encouraged student speaker for his courage in addressing the council.  
Well done, Mayor.*

**Reminders** 😊(see reverse)

**The purpose of the LWV Observer Corp is:**

- 1.To promote public interest in local government and to be a “presence” to elected officials.
- 2.To alert the League Board to upcoming agenda items on which we have program positions on which we can speak.
- 3.To identify areas for future LWV study and action.

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Observers play an important role as they learn about issues and processes and are in touch with what is happening in our community. A LWV Observer is impartial, silent, and respectful. It is, however, appropriate to ask questions for clarification. Remember to wear your Observer ID Badge.

***Please attach the Agenda and any other materials received at the meeting that you feel are important to your report. Please try to submit your report to the LWV Observer Chair, Paula Eismann, within one week of the meeting.*** peismann60@comcast.net