

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps

Name of Agency: Tacoma City Council Meeting *Date:* January 8, 2019
Observer Reporting: C Rikerd *Length of Meeting:* 51 minutes
Members Present/Absent: all present, Mr. Ibsen
Others present (i.e. media, public):

The agenda and video recording is available at:

<https://cityoftacoma.legistar.com/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=22566&GUID=F23EE68E-8E57-4BEC-8601-B969C461E3B3&R=8b32d8c2-d42b-4f41-a78b-413ef88fee15>

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?*

ORD28564 - incurring an encroachment to a building at N. 30th St and Carr St
ORD28569 - vacating a section of S. 1st St to facilitate a new senior housing development

RES40202 - council Member McCarthy nominated and elected to serve as Deputy Mayor until 12/31/2019
RES40203 - appointing new members to the Citizen Police Advisory Committee

- Appointing Fredrick Powell to the "Council District No. 4" position to fill an unexpired term to expire December 31, 2019.
- Appointing Leah Staub to the "Council District No. 5" position to fill an unexpired term to expire December 31, 2019.
- Reappointing Louis Cooper to the "At-Large No. 5" position to serve a three-year term, effective January 1, 2019, to expire December 31, 2021.

RES40204 - awarding \$227,722 for guardrail repairs and improvements

RES40205

A resolution authorizing the execution of a Multi-Family Housing Eight-Year Limited Property Tax Exemption Agreement with Glasshouse Two, LLC, for the development of 131 multi-family market-rate rental housing units, located at 308 Tacoma Ave South in the Downtown Regional Growth Center. [Debbie Bingham, Economic Development Specialist; Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]

There have been code violations at this address, including open cases. The current property owner has been responsible for keeping cleanup actions ongoing.

The development is being given an 8-year tax exemption. There will be 131 market rate apartments – nothing for lower income renters seeking housing. There will be 66 parking stalls for the 131 units. The rent will be \$1400 to \$1700 per month.

Agreement <http://cityoftacoma.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=1ba4de46-eb2c-4a48-81b5-051c864ffddf.pdf>

More information may be found in the Tacoma News Tribune

<https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article224160400.html>

This development does nothing to address the extreme crisis of housing for lower income Tacoma citizens who are being displaced from our city's gentrification. The eight year tax exemption is about \$80,000 in lost revenue to the city. The benefits of the tax exemption go to developers in Seattle.

RES40206 – added to the agenda - Video recording of this item may be watched at minute 15:25
http://cityoftacoma.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=3458

A resolution was introduced condemning the overnight leafleting of areas of the City of Tacoma with white supremacist flyers, by formally reconfirming the City's dedication to equity and inclusion. This is worth watching. The resolution was unanimously approved. Well done, City Council.

ORD28568 – passed – amending rights of way for the Puyallup Tribe to relocate the Emerald Queen Casino

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?
No.

Citizens' Forum Comments

Speakers addressed supporting Click! Network as a city partner enterprise, presented evidence about the environmental dangers of the LNG plant, and spoke about the lack of affordable housing for the poor.

Economic Development Committee Meeting Report

ECE met once in 2019, will work with community partners to develop the kinds of jobs that bring people here to work. Partners include the Chamber of commerce and other regional economic organizations. Council Member Hunter commented on her satisfaction with Click! when she became a customer. Council Member Ushka commented that TPU will work with federal employees who are not being paid. She also commended the city Code Enforcement officers for clearing up code enforcement complaints.

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?

Yes and Yes.

This review was written from the video recording of the meeting.