

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps

Name of Agency: Tacoma City Council

Date: February 12, 2019

Observer Reporting: C Rikerd

Length of Meeting: 23 minutes

Members Present/Absent: Mr. Beale absent at roll call, present at minute 5 in video

Others present (i.e. media, public):

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?

Disclosure of Remote Interest

Mr. Mello discloses city boards and commissions in which he participates as Executive Director at the Pierce County Conservation District, the Board of Commissioners of Pierce Transit, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, and the Association of Washington Cities.

Ms. Ushka discloses she serves on the Board of the Crystal Judd Family Justice Center, and TPCPD – BoH Chair (name of agency not spelled out).

Consent Agenda:

included ORD28572 vacating a portion of land fronting Johnny's Restaurant on East D St for use by the restaurant, passed to the Council for a vote by the Hearings Examiner. Consent agenda adopted.

No Public Comments.

RES40230 – contract for construction of the North End Wastewater Treatment Plant Outfall Repair Project. Adopted

RES40231 – contract for a classification and compensation study, to review pay scales offered to city employees to attract and retain skilled and dedicated city workers. Adopted

The contract and award memorandum is available to read under the agenda for 2/15/19 on the website at:

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

Scroll down the agenda column to Feb 15 Council meeting, and click on the blue line at the end of the resolution summary.

RES40228 and RES40229

Second reading of these resolutions first presented Feb. 5. Both amend the *Rules of Procedure of the Council of the City of Tacoma*. *228 creates Rule 16, which establishes a standard process for filling open city council position. *229 creates Rule 17, which establishes a standard process for City Council Confirmation of Department Director appointments. Mr. Mello spoke in support of 229 as opening transparency in hiring decision. Both adopted.

Citizens' Forum Comments

- Request City to support 100% clean energy initiative
- Request City council and utilities offer their support to the energy initiatives in Olympia; asking for more public participation in the Subarea Planning Commission

- Request council to review information about the environmental hazards of building Liquefied Natural Gas plant on the tideflats, referencing missing information on the environmental impact statements, referenced lack of peer review of Environmental Impact Statement information, which contradicts current state scientific findings and laws
- Requests re-opening of the EIS process, and the supplemental impact statement, SIS, due to faults previously identified

Reports – Government Performance and Finance Committee (Mr. Ibsen) has not met since last report, next meeting Feb 19, agenda to be determined.

Mayor Woodards offered thanks and compliments to the Tacoma road crews for their work. The Mayor rode with a crew for 6 hours to gain understanding of the work it takes to clear roads. Crews have been working 12 ½ hour shifts. The goal is to plow 406 lane-miles of roads 4 times in 24 hours. Mayor Woodards also sent appreciative thanks to the police and fire personnel, and the public utility workers who repaired downed power lines.

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?

The subjects of meetings are available a few days in advance at the City of Tacoma website.

*From the website City Council Study Session Feb 26
Review of Public Testimony at the Proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit Regulations
Public hearing*

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 report is based on review of the videotaped meeting, and the published agenda.

Mayor Woodards runs a very efficient meeting. She does call for comments from council members on each agenda item. If there are no comments, a vote is taken, results announced and the next agenda item is introduced in the same breath.

Public comments speakers are not unduly constrained for running a few seconds over their time, and are routinely thanked for sharing their thoughts and concerns.

The Mayor proudly embraces opportunities to acknowledge and compliment the work of city employees.

Civility reigns at the Council Meetings, which is good for all of us.