

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY OBSERVER PROGRAM REPORT

By Lydia Zepeda

Tacoma City Council Meeting - April 7, 2020, 5:00 pm

Present: Victoria Woodards, Chris Beale, Keith Blocker, John Hines, Lillian Hunter, Conor McCarthy, Robert Thoms, Catherine Ushka, Kristina Walker

Absent: none

Consent Agenda approved unanimously

Minutes of City Council and Tacoma Public Library Board study session, February 18, 2020.

Minutes of the City Council study session, February 25, 2020

Minutes of the joint City Council and Public Utility Board study session, March 3, 2020

Resolution to change Tideflats Interim Regulations public hearing, to Tuesday, May 5, 2020

Motion approved unanimously

Pay full and final settlement of personal injury claims by Stephanie Fallon in the matter of Stephanie Fallon and Reyna Brito v. City of Tacoma and Daniel Minnetti, Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 18-2-11790-4, relating to an automobile accident, upon payment by the City in the amount of \$375,000.

Resolutions and Ordinance RES40580, RES40581 and ORD28666 passed unanimously

Relate to setting a new class and pay rate of electrician at 10% higher rate and modifying the Municipal Code accordingly.

Public Comments must be submitted by 5pm April 13, 2020 to cityclerk@cityoftacoma.org

Amendment to **2019-20 Action Plan for Housing and Community Development to reprogram \$3 million** in unused block grant funds. Limited copies of the report are available by calling (253) 591-5874 or emailing dlightfoot@cityoftacoma.org

Specifically, reprogram \$2,975,000 in Entitlement funds from current and prior year unallocated resources to the 2019-20 Annual Action Plan for use in two community development activities:

1. **Homeownership Center Northwest (HCNW) I Street Site Acquisition project** (\$1,275,000): This project will support the acquisition of six parcels of land near the intersection of South 9th Street and South I Street for the future development of units to be sold to low-income, first-time homebuyers.
2. The **Tacoma Community Redevelopment Authority Property Acquisition** (\$1,700,000): This project will acquire property on Tacoma Avenue South near the intersection of South 13th Street for the purpose of providing future affordable housing options.

Most of the meeting was dedicated to a report by police chief Ramsdell and comments by the Council members congratulating the police and indicating fear for personal safety and property.

The comments revealed that Tacoma police are at full staffing, in contrast to prior years.

- **68% of the City budget is spent on police and fire.**
- Since the quarantine, **police calls have been down.**
- However, the **murder and aggravated assault rates are up.** YTD 2020 there have been 10 homicides in Tacoma, compared to total of 17 in 2019.
- **Priority of police is to create greater “presence” to protect business property.** “Police are mindful to protect businesses that are closed.” Patrols have increased during the quarantine and officers are patrolling alone to increase number of police out.
- Councilperson Thoms noted that some businesses were boarding their windows to protect their property.

- Councilperson Hunter indicated that she has been contacted by constituents saying when they called 911, they were told the police won't come. She is concerned about the guidance being given to South Sound Dispatchers and asked how it has changed during the quarantine.

**There is a Special Council Meeting on Friday at 2pm on Covid-19
dial in 855-747-8824 passcode 821 537 73**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm