



OBSERVER REPORT FORM

Tacoma City Council Study Session

Date: 10-12-2021

Observer: Ann Williams

Time Meeting Called to Order: 12:00pm

Members Present: Hunter, Walker, Ushka, McCarthy, Blocker, Beale, Woodards

Members Absent: Thoms (late. Arrived for Item III)

Others Present: Elizabeth Pauli (City Manager), Rosa McCloud (Government Relations), Jen Covino (Contract lobbyist in Washington DC), Peter Huffman (Planning and Development), Steve Victor (Deputy City Attorney), Katie, Johnston (Budget Office), TPD Chief Mike Ake

I. Federal Affairs Update and Draft Priorities: Rosa McCloud and Jen Covino

1. The American Rescue Plan supplied \$60.9 million directly to the City of Tacoma from the Fiscal Recovery Fund.
2. A City's 2020 federal legislative priority (Minority Business Development Act) is part of the infrastructure package.
3. With earmarks restored Community Project Funding could lead to about \$8 Million in Tacoma project funding.
4. Comprehensive federal police reform is not progressing, but there are smaller bills addressing specific items under the heading of police reform.
5. The actual budget reconciliation number being discussed ranges from \$1.9-2-2 trillion. Speaker Pelosi is describing this as Building Back Better for Children. There is will likely be cuts from the original \$3.5 trillion in free community college, elderly services, and affordable housing.

II. Tide Flats Non-Interim Regulation Hearing Debriefing and Potential Amendments: Peter Huffman, Steve Victor

1. The Tide Flats have been operating under interim regulations pending the finalization of its Subarea Plan, still a few years in the future. The interim regulations required renewal every 6 months. To avoid this the council asked for the development of more permanent, non-interim regulations. There was a recent public hearing on these non-interim regulations.
2. 2. Under the non-interim regulations, no new petroleum facilities will be allowed. Existing petroleum facilities can expand by 15% only if that expansion is for cleaner fuels. New clean fuel infrastructure prohibits the storage, production or shipment of petroleum, LNG, and natural gas. Ethanol production is allowed for fuel blending. These regulations are more stringent than what is currently allowed.
3. As Puget Sound Energy's LNG plant has been previously fully permitted it will proceed, which means 5 million gallons of storage and 500,000 gallons of daily production.
4. Tribal consultation is planned before moving forward.

5. On November 2nd Council will decide on proceeding with non-interim regulations or renewing interim regulations. Current interim regulations expire on December 2nd.

III. Community Safety and Policing Proposals: Elizabeth Pauli, Katie Johnston, Mike Ake

1. Historically the vacancy rate for commissioned police officers is 4%. Over the last year it has risen to 12%. That translates to a deficit of 42 officers.
2. The police labor budget in this biennium was constructed with the 4% vacancy assumption, i.e., this budget line was reduced compared to funding all authorized officers. Outlays for overtime currently about equal the savings from vacancies.
3. Chief Ake will be requesting a Mid-Biennium Modification of \$5.6 Million.
4. Even with aggressive recruiting, training time translates into a 18-24- month delay to the time of an officer's deployment. Now is the time to explore ways to hasten the training process, which means consultations with multiple authorities.
5. The Alternative Response Study had 3 basic recommendations that are in various stages of development.
6. Two hundred thousand dollars will be added to the Neighborhood and Community Services to enhance responses to encampment calls. There will likely be further enhancements to funding for this issue.
7. The Crisis Response Diversion is budgeted to continue evaluation and possible early implementation (in 2022) of a mental health/EMT team.
8. Diverting Non-Emergency Calls is also budgeted for further evaluation and initial implementation.
9. The Mid-Biennium Modification proposal will be presented to council on November 2nd with final adoption expected on November 16th.

IV. Manny Ellis Investigation Update

1. While on the agenda, this item was not discussed.

Time Meeting Adjourned: 3:14pm