



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Council Chambers

November 04, 2014

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

Present: 8 - Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Boe

Briefing Items

1. [14-1068](#)

Budget Work Session - Tacoma Police Department

Don Ramsdell, Chief, Tacoma Police Department (TPD), presented a department overview, including TPD's mission statement, organizational structure, and highlighted 2013-2014 major accomplishments, including Child Abduction Response Team (CART) certification, the success of the Cold Case Unit, and Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) reaccreditation. He then presented a budget summary for the 2015-2016 biennium, noting there is not much change in the dollar amount, but there was a reduction of 66 employees for the 2013-2014 biennium, and two additional proposed for 2015-2016. He then presented the proposed budget by program and cost category, and expenditures and revenues. He then reviewed proposed reductions to maintenance and operations and reviewed enhancements, including the 2014 COPS hiring grant. Chief Ramsdell then presented the 2015-2016 major initiatives, including Target Zero DUI Emphasis, school zone enforcement, attaining full staffing through recruitment and outreach with an emphasis on equity, CALEA reaccreditation in 2016, TPD's strategic plan, and obtain national accreditation in forensics. Finally, he reviewed performance measures, including calls for service, the number of crimes against persons and property, average response time to emergency calls, and citizen conduct complaints.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of officers needed for patrol and any CALEA standards; crime statistics and their meaning; equity in recruiting, hiring, and potential barriers in the hiring process; the cold case unit; personnel and staffing needs, shortages and vacancies; fleet replacement and

sustainability; community policing programs; budget differences from 2011-2012 through 2015-2016; jail services; and expenditures for the U.S. Open. Chief Ramsdell was asked to provide additional information to the Council regarding the demographics of TPD applicants, the average response times to non-emergency calls, and a breakdown of services staffing for both commissioned officers and non-commissioned staff.

2. [14-1067](#)

Budget Work Session - Tacoma Fire Department

Jim Duggan, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), presented a department overview, including TFD's mission statement, and organizational structure. He then reviewed the 2013-2014 major accomplishments, including the deployment of three replacement fire engines, two medic units, and one fireboat; a reduction in call processing time at the Fire Communication Center; the establishment of an alternate transport unit for non-emergency 911 callers; and joint training in the tideflat area. He then presented a budget summary for the 2015-2016 biennium, including how the proposed \$128.44 million is broken down by program and cost category. He then reviewed estimated expenditures and revenues in the General and EMS Funds and proposed reductions and enhancements. Finally, he reviewed 2015-2016 major initiatives, including Port of Tacoma emergency response and intelligent transportation system study; computer-aided dispatch software upgrade; and building additional capacity for emergency petrochemical risks. He then discussed performance measures, including the number of confirmed fires, emergency medical incidents, response time for fire incidents, and response time for EMS incidents.

Discussion ensued regarding the breakdown of total response time of dispatch, turnout, and travel; the Intelligent Transportation Study, and service and response to the Port of Tacoma and tideflat areas; the potential for adding a fee to pay for additional or expanded service areas and needs; TFD-generated revenue proposals, including fees for enhanced fire inspections to commercial, multi-family, and industrial buildings; the 2015-2016 goals proposed in the performance measures, how they were set, and what it would take to meet those goals; and the accreditation and reaccreditation process and targets.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [14-1066](#)

Weekly Report to the City Council, October 30, 2014

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there is one proclamation tonight, proclaiming November 2-8, 2014 as Chief Leschi week, and a presentation from ForeverGreen Trails. He stated there are no changes to tonight's agenda.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk