

Economic Development Committee

2019

During 2019, the Economic Development Committee discussed and made recommendations on a number of policy matters. The Economic Development Committee work summary for the year 2019 is outlined below under the Committee's suggested issue areas in the Council Standing Committee Process Manual.

2019 Year-end Report

ISSUE AREAS	INFORMATIONAL BRIEFINGS	REQUESTS FOR ACTION	TOTAL ITEMS
Economic development issues and opportunities	13	0	13
Business recruitment and retention	7	0	7
International affairs, trade and development	1	0	1
Military and veteran affairs related to economic development	1	0	1
Investment and development climate issues	1	2	3
Permitting process improvements related to economic development	2	0	2
Workforce development	2	0	2
Capital projects planning and development (not right of way)	2	0	2
Parking	1	0	1
Foss Waterway Development Authority	1	0	1
Total	31	2	33
Percentage of Total Briefings	93.9%	6.1%	
Citizen Committees, Boards, and Commissions Appointments			

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2019 YEAR-END REPORT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Informational Briefings	Date
Pierce County Economic Development [Betty Capestany, Economic Development Director, Pierce County]	January 8
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce [Tom Pierson, President and CEO, Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber]	January 8
Economic Development Board of Tacoma-Pierce County [Bruce Kendall, President and CEO, Economic Development Board]	January 8
Development and Discussion of the Economic Development Strategic Plan [Jeff Robinson, Director, Community & Economic Development, and Chris Mefford, President and CEO, Community Attributes Inc.]	January 29
Sound Outreach [Jeff Klein, Executive Director, Sound Outreach]	March 26
Update on Development of the Economic Development Strategic Plan [Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]	April 9
Ensuring a Safe, Clean, and Sanitary Downtown* [Andrew Torres, Assistant Division Manager, and Lewis Griffith, Division Manager, Environmental Services; Don Ramsdell, Police Chief]	August 13
Informational Briefing on the Transit Oriented Development Advisory Group* [Ian Munce, Special Assistant to the Director, Planning and Development Services]	August 27
Tacoma Public Utilities Economic Development Strategic Plan [Michael Catsi, Economic Development Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities]	September 24
Tacoma Public Utilities Economic Development Strategic Plan [Michael Catsi, Economic Development Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities]	October 29
Food Innovation* [Carol Wolfe, Division Manager, Community and Economic Development]	December 10
Tacoma Economic Development Strategic Plan [Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development]	December 10
Community and Economic Development and Planning and Development Services Collaboration/Communication opportunities with the Economic Development Committee [Jeff Robinson, Director, Community and Economic Development, and Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services]	December 10

BUSINESS RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Informational Briefings	Date
Update on Namatad [Pat Beard, Project Manager, Community and Economic Development]	January 29

Green Economy Informational Briefing [Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development Department]	February 26
Fire Department Namatad Pilot [James P. Duggan, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department, and Pat Beard, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development Department]	March 26
Green Economy Update* [Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]	June 11
Commercial Tenant Overview [Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]	August 27
Minority Business Development Agency [Linda Womack, Minority Business Development Agency Tacoma Business Center Program Director, Community and Economic Development]	September 10
Green Economy Policy Recommendations* [Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]	October 29

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Informational Briefings	Date
Foreign Trade Zone Update [Erin DeBroux, Real Estate Analyst, Port of Tacoma]	April 23

MILITARY AND VETERAN AFFAIRS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Informational Briefings	Date
South Sound Military and Communities Partnership Update [William Adamson, Program Director, South Sound Military and Communities Partnership]	March 26

INVESTMENT AND DEVELOPMENT CLIMATE ISSUES

Informational Briefings	Date	
Tacoma Opportunity Zones Update [Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development]	May 14	
Request for action	Action taken	Date
Commercial Office Space Development Incentive	None	June 25

[Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]		
Commercial Office Incentive [Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]	Recommended do pass with amendments	October 22

PERMITTING PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Informational Briefings	Date
Sidewalk Cafes [Jana Magoon, Planning Manager, Planning and Development Services]	September 24
Lead Agency Discussion [Steve Victor, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, and Shirley Schultz, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services]	December 10

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Informational Briefings	Date
Pierce County Workforce Development Strategic Direction and Alignment Opportunity [Linda Nguyen, CEO, Workforce Central]	February 12
Green Economy: Workforce Training [Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development]	June 11

CAPITAL PROJECTS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Informational Briefings	Date
Theatre Square Planning Update [Janine Robinson, Senior Planner, Pierce Transit]	April 23
Local Revitalization Financing [Elly Walkowiak, Assistant Director, Community and Economic Development]	July 23

PARKING

Informational Briefings	Date
Citywide Parking Services Overview* [Eric Huseby, Operations Manager, and Dana Brown, Assistant Division Manager, Public Works]	September 10

FOSS WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Informational Briefings	Date
FWDA Land Transactions [Pat Beard, Project Manager, CEDD]	February 12

CITIZEN COMMITTEES, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS

Applicant Interviews for Citizen Committees, Boards, and Commissions	Interviews	Appointments
City Events and Recognitions Committee	5	4
Foss Waterway Development Authority	3	2
Tacoma Arts Commission	4	4
Total	12	10

COMMITTEE TOPIC AREAS NOT REVIEWED IN DETAIL

- Arts and cultural access
- Business climate policies and processes
- City owned and managed venues
- Multi-family housing limited property tax exemption program
- Mixed use development
- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Job creation
- Events, festivals and special events
- Port of Tacoma
- Neighborhood business districts

Council Strategic Planning Work Session Priorities

At the July 10 and July 23 meetings, Committee members reviewed the Council Strategic Planning Work Session Priorities assigned to the Committee. The Committee directed the items above marked with a * be scheduled, and discussion on the following items be postponed:

- Anchor Institutions -Need to know plan and status
- (GSP, etc.) Business Advisory Council; Increase regional collaboration for economic development
- Build out regional work force development system
- Digital Equity; -Wi-Fi access for all/ more free Wi-Fi zones; Using Click! Partnership; - Define digital equity (what would be a good end state for Tacoma to call itself digitally equitable?)
- Workforce support for less than HSD to increase employment

- Better activation and focus on waterfront. Ruston way- Foss, Schuster Pkwy ; -Better articulation of how neighborhoods feel about city, perhaps survey attached to prop tax bill. Some taxpayers do not engage through normal means, i.e. NC, campaigns, etc. Support our largest investors monetarily.

Council Member Robert Thoms, Chair

Council Member Conor McCarthy

Councilmember Ushka

Councilmember Hunter

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