



City Council Retreat/Workshop Minutes

University of Washington, 1900 Commerce Street, Tacoma Room
Tacoma, Washington

Friday, February 22, 2002

Mayor Baarsma called the Workshop to order at 5:52 p.m.

Council Members Present: 8 ~ Ladenburg, Lonergan, McGavick, Miller, Moss, Phelps, Talbert, and Mayor Baarsma.

Council Members Absent: 1 ~ Evans.

Mayor Baarsma introduced guest speaker, Martha Choe, director of the State Department of Trade and Economic Development.

Ms. Choe talked about the state's economic strategy and plans, and how the state works with cities, tourism, and budget.

State Budget: \$240 million additional deficit due to revenue shortfall, plus \$100 million in additional expense for education and prisons. All together \$1.6 billion hole. Not much different than other states.

Ms. Choe stated Tacoma had done an incredible job of knowing its assets and branding it – America's #1 Wired City. She stated it is important to have a knowledge-based economy, rather than one of minimum wage jobs, and that the University of Washington Tacoma is poised to help.

She stated Washington is number one in new business starts and business closures and that one of the most important assets of the state is the knowledge-based economy.

She stated Washington is number two in traffic congestion and in the middle with regard to tax burden.

Ms. Choe stated the President of Mexico is coming to Washington this year to explore economic partnerships.

Ms. Choe then discussed Governor Locke's Competitiveness Council, which focuses on human capital and innovation; taxes and fees; physical infrastructure; regulatory and permitting issues; and benchmarks and performance measures.

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She stated the City's job is to keep increasing jobs through a variety of programs.

Ms. Choe stated Tacoma should encourage entrepreneurial spirit in government and the private sector. She stated the City should take risks, be innovative, and willing to make mistakes.

Discussion ensued regarding how to attract major retail; the economic development conference; neighborhood and business districts; tourism; infrastructure that attracts business; and convention center concerns.

Mayor Baarsma introduced Barb Young, who reviewed Saturday's agenda.

There being no further business, the Friday session of the Workshop was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

WILLIAM A. BAARSMA, MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
DORIS SORUM, CITY CLERK

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