



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

June 18, 2019

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:10 p.m.

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 5 - Cooley, Flint, Jones, Larkin, and Patterson

Council Member Thoms arrived at 12:14 p.m.

Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks. Public Utility Board (PUB) Chair Jones introduced the PUB Members.

Joint Public Utility Board/City Council Briefing Items

1. [19-0629](#) Director of Utilities Performance Review Process

At approximately 12:11 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks regarding the performance review process for the Director of Utilities. PUB Member Larkin reviewed the performance evaluation timeline and strategies, including public input, similar format to the City Manager's evaluation, and collaborative efforts with General Government.

Council Member Thoms arrived here, at 12:14 p.m.

PUB Member Larkin continued with a review of the evaluation framework and confirmation process.

Discussion ensued regarding qualitative and quantitative review strategies and methods, and interaction between the City Council and PUB.

Joint Public Utility Board/City Council Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor McCarthy moved to convene to a joint Executive Session, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ibsen.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Ayes: 5 - Cooley, Flint, Jones, Larkin, Patterson

The Council and PUB convened to joint Executive Session at 12:22 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre; Chief Deputy City Attorneys Chris Bacha and Tom Morrill; and Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz were in attendance.

The joint Executive Session was extended by 15 minutes at 12:37 p.m.

The joint Executive Session concluded at 12:52 p.m., and the joint study session reconvened at 12:56 p.m.

Joint Public Utility Board/City Council Briefing Items

2. [19-0630](#) Click! Contract Negotiation Update

At approximately 12:57 p.m., Chris Bacha, Chief Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney's Office, provided opening remarks and introduced Brian Haynes, President and CEO, Amanda Singleton, Customer Care Manager, and Lorie Hills, Sales and Marketing Manager, Rainier Connect. Mr. Haynes reviewed what to expect as discussions progress. Ms. Singleton and Ms. Hills described what to expect during transition, including existing programs, frequently asked questions, community announcements, and news releases; and what to expect after transition, related to billing and payment options, customer service, upgrades, and services.

Discussion ensued regarding branding and the Click! name, service changes

and improvements, cable television service and local programming, resources about the transition for customers, customer service staff, measuring service quality, rate schedules and changes, coordination with existing staff, and community engagement and outreach.

Other Items of Interest

Mayor Woodards presented Chair Jones with a recognition of his service on the PUB from 2009 to 2019. Mr. Jones commented on his experiences.

Council Member Mello stated he, Council Member Thoms, and Tacoma Public Utility Director Flowers participated in the launch of Washington State's first electric school bus at Franklin Pierce School District.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. [19-0633](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, June 13, 2019

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated tonight's meeting agenda includes one proclamation and two recognitions, proclaiming June 19, 2019 as Smoke Ready Communities Day, and recognizing Nagaoka International Corporation and CEO Yasuhisa Umezu, and the Tacoma Police Explorer post. She further stated that there are no changes expected to tonight's agenda.

Joint Public Utility Board/City Council Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor McCarthy moved to convene to joint Closed Session, pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b), to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Ayes: 5 - Cooley, Flint, Jones, Larkin, Patterson

The Council and PUB convened to joint Closed Session at 1:30 p.m.

The joint Closed Session concluded and the joint study session reconvened at 2:12 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the joint study session was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk