



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

April 12, 2016

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the joint study session to order at 12:05 p.m.

Present: 5 - Campbell, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 4 - Blocker, Ibsen, McCarthy and Woodards

Tacoma Public Utility Board Members Present: 3 - Flint, Larkin and
Patterson

Tacoma Public Utility Board Members Absent: 2 - Jones and Trudnowski

Council Member Woodards arrived at 12:06 p.m.

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [16-0302](#) Low-Income Assistance Program

Council Member Woodards arrived here, at 12:06 p.m.

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Bill Gaines, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), provided brief opening remarks and introduced Francine Artis and Steve Hatcher, TPU. Ms. Artis provided an overview of the Low-Income Assistance Program including history, charter team participants and objectives, goal of assistance programs, outreach activities, grant programs, number of customers assisted, gaps, impacts of disconnections, paradigm shift, recommended approach, grant program versus bill credit, evaluation, desired outcomes, projected costs and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding renters, budget billing, installment plans, community assistance, comparison to other communities offering similar assistance programs, the bill credit program, locations of budget course and hours offered, discounts available, and TPU's conservation programs.

2. [16-0303](#) Utility Bill Redesign

At approximately 12:53 p.m., Chris Gleason and John Hoffman, TPU, discussed the upcoming redesign to the current utility bill, including why a redesign is needed, accomplishments, comparison of current and new bill design, customer reactions, communication timeline, and a cost breakdown.

Discussion ensued regarding support of the redesign, how credit amounts are shown on the new bill, utilization of the bill for marketing, cost of drinking water versus surface water, summary billing, online bill pay, and incentives for using online bill pay.

3. [16-0304](#) T-Town City Services Expo

At approximately 1:22 p.m., Tadd Wille, Budget Director, provided an overview of the T-Town City Services Expo, including goals, event development, event layout, map, key activities, examples of activities, other event highlights, and communication strategies.

Discussion ensued regarding community outreach, City Events and Recognitions Committee involvement, City committees, boards and commissions involvement in the event, reoccurrence every biennium, inclusion of local partners such as Metro Parks Tacoma and the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, and event promotion.

The joint study session was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

There were no other briefing items.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

Deputy Mayor Mello stated the Pierce Transit Board had the opportunity to restore 59,000 annual service hours to its network, which will be completed in three waves between now and the end of 2017. He stated that he and Mayor Strickland would make sure those service hours are being provided to highly used routes in Tacoma and briefly discussed improvements being made at the Tacoma Dome Station. He concluded by discussing the most recent meeting of the Puget Sound Regional Council Growth Management Policy Board, stating that the Board is recommending a conditional certification of Pierce County's Comprehensive Plan.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [16-0283](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, April 7, 2016

T.C. Broadnax, City Manager, stated there are no proclamations, recognitions, presentations or announcements on tonight's agenda. He stated there may be one change, a possible substitute to Resolution No. 39418. Elizabeth Pauli, City Attorney, provided information regarding the substitution.

Mayor Strickland requested a summary of retail marijuana stores.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

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

SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.

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

Ayes: 6 - Campbell, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 3 - Blocker, Ibsen and McCarthy

The Council convened to Executive Session at 1:50 p.m. City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli was present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:05 p.m.

Executive Session - City Manager's Performance Review

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Mello moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the performance of the City Manager, not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Woodards.

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

Ayes: 6 - Campbell, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 3 - Blocker, Ibsen and McCarthy

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:05 p.m. City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli was present.

The Executive Session was extended by 55 minutes at 3:05 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk