



# City of Tacoma Government Performance and Finance Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

September 18, 2018

10:00 AM

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Chair Anders Ibsen, Vice Chair Ryan Mello,  
Keith Blocker, Lillian Hunter, Justin Camarata(alternate)

## Call To Order

Deputy Mayor Ibsen called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**Present:** 3 - Hunter, Ibsen and Mello

**Absent:** 1 - Blocker

Council Member Blocker arrived at 10:03 a.m.

## Approval of Minutes

1. [18-1036](#) Approval of the Minutes of the August 21, 2018

**MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2018 meeting.**

**SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.**

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

**Ayes:** 3 - Hunter, Ibsen and Mello

**Absent:** 1 - Blocker

## Briefing Items

2. [18-1037](#) 2019-2020 Environmental Services Budget and Rate Revenues

At approximately 10:02 a.m., Mike Slevin, Director, Environmental Services, made opening remarks.

Council Member Blocker arrived here, at 10:03 a.m.

Mr. Slevin presented the 2019-2020 Environmental Services proposed rates, including the budget process; wastewater, surface water, and solid waste drivers; 2017 and 2019 six-year revenue plans; 2017-2019 revenue differences; projected rate increase for an average residential customer; a comparison chart showing the 2018 residential monthly bill compared to other communities; and introduced Francine Artis, Assistant Manager, Customer Service. Ms. Artis described marketing materials that are and will be available to the community with information in various languages; two available bill payment assistance programs, including the Discount Rate Program and the Bill Credit Assistance Plan; benefits of the new plan, noting a comparison of former grant programs versus the new Bill Credit Assistance Plan; how the Bill Credit Assistance Plan works; and the Financial Education Credit. Mr. Slevin concluded by reviewing the timeline.

Discussion ensued regarding surface water drivers, solid waste drivers, the 2018 residential comparison chart to other communities, and whether there is a chart that shows business rates. Discussion concluded on wastewater drivers, provision of a cost driver bar graph, and long-term cost drivers and what can be done to address them.

3. [18-1038](#) 2019-2020 Proposed Fire Fees and Fines

At approximately 10:42 a.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Director, Finance, made opening remarks. Jim Duggan, Fire Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), introduced Michael Mitchell, Deputy Fire Chief, TFD, and reviewed the 2019-2020 proposed Fire Department fees and fines, including background and proposed fees and fines for particular services, including false fire alarm, non-emergent lift assist, commercial fire protection systems compliance, and Fire Code Inspection Program (FCIP). Mr. Mitchell described impacts on the TFD when there is a fire false alarm. Mr. Duggan further described fire false alarms, noting unintentional activations and system malfunctions, a chart showing the increase of confirmed fire false alarms for commercial and residential, and a comparison of the proposed fee to other jurisdictions. He reviewed details of non-emergent lift assist, noting a comparison of the proposed fine to other jurisdictions; commercial fire protection systems, noting a proposal to contract with a third-party compliance company and a comparison of the proposed fee to other jurisdictions; and the FCIP, including the Tacoma FCIP fee and fee range per inspection and a comparison of the proposed fee range to other jurisdictions and their fee ranges. Mr. Duggan concluded by describing next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding non-emergent lift assist, the FCIP, and the proposed strategy to inform the public of the fines.

4. [18-1039](#) Planning and Development Services Proposed Fee Adjustments

At approximately 11:12 a.m., Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services (PDS), made opening remarks and provided an overview of the PDS proposed fee adjustments, including phase I - residential fee adjustments, residential permitting improvements, proposed phase II - residential fee adjustments, and proposed work order permit adjustments. He further reviewed proposed permitting fee adjustments for Site Development, pre-application, and Land Use. Mr. Huffman concluded by presenting a summary chart on the projected permit fee revenue increases and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding proposed phase II - residential fee adjustments and proposed Site Development permit fee adjustments and enforcement of long-term code requirements.

## Topics for Upcoming Meetings

5. [18-1040](#) October 2, 2018 - Joint Meeting with the Audit Advisory Board; Responsive Bidding Process; Tacoma Public Utilities Rates Proposal

Bucoda Warren, Committee Liaison, stated the livable wages by service contracts and minimum wage for disabled persons presentations by Debra Casparian were originally scheduled for October 16, 2018 and have been moved to the November 20, 2018 meeting. The meeting of October 2, 2018 will include Tacoma Public Utilities rates proposals, administrative changes to chapters 6A.10, 6B.10, and 6B.20 in the Title 6 Tax and License Code, and provisional rental property license. He concluded by stating Title 6 clean up, Entertainment and Show License update, study on minimum wage, and a discussion on increasing Tacoma minimum wage has been added to the October 16, 2018 meeting agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding potential topics and the presentation on minimum wage for disabled persons.

## Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

## **Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

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Anders Ibsen, Chair

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Jessica Jenkins, City Clerk's Office