



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

September 12, 2017

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the joint study session to order at 12:06 p.m.

Present: 7 - Blocker, Campbell, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 2 - Ibsen and Thoms

Public Utility Board Members Present: Flint, Jones, Larkin, Patterson, and Trudnowski

Deputy Mayor Thoms and Council Member Ibsen arrived at 12:10 p.m.

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [17-0927](#) Low-Income Solar Program

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Bill Gaines, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), made opening remarks and provided information relative to the residential solar plan, including Resolution No. 39699 and residential and low-income plan summary.

Deputy Mayor Thoms and Council Member Ibsen arrived here, at 12:10 p.m.

Clay Norris, Power Manager, TPU, then reviewed background information, including solar incentives, solar costs, examples of solar systems, and the economics of solar systems. He continued reviewing the plan development, including consultation, low-income eligibility, and Tacoma Power household earnings. He then provided information on the residential solar plan. He noted that part one of the plan is focused on increasing overall residential solar, including residential roof-top solar counts, Washington State's new voluntary solar incentive program, expanding marketing, outreach and education, Interactive Energy Decision Software WattPlan and its key features, and modifying the SAP process. He stated that part two of the plan is focused on

addressing residential solar equity, including working with strategic partners, Tacoma Power's incentive package and zero-interest loan program for low-income customers, community solar, advocacy at the state level, multi-family pilot project, and the revamped Evergreen Options program. He then concluded by reviewing other considerations and a summary.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding the calculations on bill savings, the percentage of owner-occupied or rental housing residents, electric vehicles, conservation and renewable requirements, comparing monthly utility bill savings of two different households, difficulties on sustaining the solar system, cost and demand, hydro system versus solar system, advocacy at the state level, helping rental property owners, fuel standards, other conservation programs, the need for including gas services to Tacoma Power to make it a one-stop-shop, partnering with clearing house and local energy provider, Puget Sound Energy's financial structure of the incentive program, replacement costs, challenges with solar program costs, benefits of solar power system, the need for a breakdown of all households and diversity, and the need for a "how to budget" process for residents seeking the renewable energy programs.

The joint study session was adjourned and the regular study session convened at 1:03 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

Other Items of Interest

2. [17-0928](#) Council Consideration Request - Tacoma Reads Together 2017

Mayor Strickland presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) directing the City Manager to allocate up to \$15,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund to support the 2017 Tacoma Reads Together events in October and November 2017. She stated that this year's book is *Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body* by Roxanne Gay, and the Tacoma Public Library will be matching the City's fund.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for the Tacoma Reads Together program to be funded through the City's Biennial Budget.

3. [17-0929](#) Council Consideration Request - Immigrant Defense Fund

Council Member Blocker presented a CCR directing the City Manager to allocate funding in the amount of \$50,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund to support the seed money for the creation of an immigrant

Legal Defense Fund and to consider fully funding the implementation of the Immigrant and Refugee Task Force's recommendation of allotting \$220,000 for partial representation during the Mid-Biennial Budget adjustment process.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding the provisions of legal services to the homeless, the intent of funding \$50,000 from the City Council Contingency Fund, the need for identifying other partners' involvement, the number of residents in need of a Legal Defense Fund, funding non-immigrant residents in need of legal services, the need for identifying a designated place to receive contributions, dispersion of the Legal Defense Fund, and the legislation process.

4. [17-0930](#) Council Consideration Request - Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs

Council Member Campbell presented a CCR requesting the Council's support to discuss a creation of a Commission on Immigrant and Refugee Affairs at the Community Vitality and Safety Committee meeting in November to begin discussing immigrant issues, and build a structure and compositions.

Committee Reports

Council Member Ibsen stated that the Joint Municipal Action Committee discussed action items for Safe Routes to School, including the funding of a sustainable Safe Routes to School coordinator and an analysis for safety and walkability in neighborhoods.

Council Member Lonergan thanked the other Council Members for providing CCRs on the agenda prior to the study session meeting.

Council Member Mello provided an update on the Pierce Transit Board, stating Pierce Transit added a significant amount of service hours with frequent stops after listening to community's needs in early Spring, redesigned the routes to be more direct and efficient, conducted an analysis on the urban routes in Tacoma which may significantly increase ridership, and more services will be added to urban routes on September 24, 2017.

Mayor Strickland reminded Council Members to be more cognizant when utilizing the City Council Contingency Fund.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [17-0931](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, September 7, 2017

Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, stated there are two proclamations on tonight's agenda, proclaiming the week of September 11-15, 2017 as Closing the Hunger Gap Week and September 15-October 15, 2017 as Hispanic Heritage Month, and there are no expected changes.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Thoms moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 15 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

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

SECONDED BY: Council Member Mello.

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

Ayes: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - McCarthy

The Council convened to Closed Session at 1:38 p.m.

The Closed Session was extended by 15 minutes at 1:53 p.m. and 7 minutes at 2:08 p.m.

The Close Session concluded at 2:15 p.m.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:15 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre, Chief Deputy City Attorney Chris Bacha, and David Ko, Keller Rohrback, were present.

The Executive Session was extended by 10 minutes at 2:30 p.m. and 13 minutes at 2:40 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk