



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

May 09, 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: 8 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello, Walker
Lee and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Board Members Present: 3 - Flint, Patterson, and Trudnowski

Board Members Absent: 2 - Jones and Larkin

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [17-0476](#) Tacoma Power's Solar Power Program and Incentives Update

At approximately 12:07 p.m., Mark Patterson, Public Utility Board Chair, introduced the other Board Members present, Bryan Flint and Monique Trudnowski. Bill Gaines, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), then provided an overview of Resolution No. 39699, adopted on April 11, 2017 meeting, which asked the Board to investigate and develop a plan to increase the use of solar power and focus on equity on low income consumers.

Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent, began by providing the background of Tacoma Power's supply portfolio, including the service area, objective, evaluation, renewable sources, comparison between Tacoma Power resources and federal and state resources, conservation, and renewable supply. He then reviewed the focus on solar, including types of solar energy systems, customer participation, and renewable energy in California and Germany. Mr. Robinson then provided advantages of solar power and reviewed measures relative to challenges with solar energy, including the amount of solar energy accumulation, solar production in Western Washington, solar production comparison of Tacoma and Southern California, customer's usage in

wintertime, roof-top solar system restrictions, unrecovered utility costs, examples of impact on non-solar customers, federal and state incentives, and the most practical option for the customers. Lastly, Mr. Robinson provided an overview of Tacoma Power's programs, including conservation and community solar, voluntary state incentive, net metering, and expanded Evergreen Options Program.

Discussion ensued throughout the presentation regarding the abundance of energy, incentives, nonrenewable energy, solar power infrastructure and its cost, utility scale photovoltaics, how to help individuals with more conservation through solar, priorities and goals regarding energy, incorporation of TPU's low or no interest weatherization program with the roof-top option, storing solar energy in batteries, capturing data of pollution of any source, life expectancy of installed solar system, evaluating community solar option, high-cost hydro conservation program, 2020 Clean Energy Initiative, potential creation of a TPU incentive program for solar and electric vehicle customers, and anticipation of installing electronic vehicle charging stations.

Joint Executive Session - Pending and Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Lonergan moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending and potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Campbell.

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

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

Absent: 1 - Thoms

Ayes: 3 - Flint, Patterson, and Trudnowski
Absent: 2 - Jones and Larkin

The City Council and Public Utility Board convened to Joint Executive Session at 1:35 p.m.

Acting City Attorney Bill Fosbre, and Liz Thomas, Mark Filipini, and Kari Vander Stoep, K&L Gates, were present.

The Joint Executive Session was extended by 10 minutes at 2:05 p.m. and 2:15 p.m., and by 5 minutes at 2:25 p.m.

The Joint Executive Session and study session concluded and the City Council study session reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

- 2. [17-0486](#) Budget Amendment Request for the Proposed Tideflats Subarea Plan

At approximately 2:34 p.m., Council Member Lonergan stated he would like to bring forward an amendment to Ordinance No. 28427 at tonight’s City Council meeting to add General Fund dollars to support external contract services, not to exceed \$500,000, to the 2017-2018 Biennial Budget for the proposed Tideflats Subarea Plan and the Port of Tacoma is having a meeting to discuss their budget regarding the plan. He then noted the money will come from the reserves. Mayor Strickland then provided additional information about the proposed amendment and noted her support.

Discussion ensued regarding benefit of the land use, transportation funding, and Puget Sound Regional Council’s endorsement.

Other Items of Interest

- 3. [17-0488](#) Council Consideration Request- Marijuana Regulations Review

At approximately 2:41 p.m., Mayor Strickland provided a background of the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board marijuana regulations. Mayor Strickland stated this request was brought forward by Deputy Mayor Thoms, to include Metro Parks system as part of restricted entities, which restricts marijuana businesses from opening within a 1,000 feet buffer proximity.

Discussion ensued regarding current mapping of the areas, effect on pre-existing businesses prior to marijuana law passing, and clear definitions on restricted entities.

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At approximately 2:43 p.m., Mayor Strickland stated that she will be declaring a state of public health emergency relating to the conditions of homeless encampments at the City Council meeting tonight. She then indicated that she has instructed the staff to come up with a plan, which involves three phases, including mitigation, temporary transitional centers, and short-term transitional housing options, and ways of issuing identification cards.

Discussion ensued regarding the overall view, phases, priorities and vision, and appropriate uses of encampments.

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At approximately 2:56 p.m., Council Member Campbell proposed an amendment to the Tideflats Subarea Plan to include the Puyallup Tribe to the Interlocal Agreement.

Discussion ensued regarding the involvement and commitment of the Puyallup Tribe.

At approximately 2:58 p.m., Council Member Ibsen proposed an amendment to the Tideflats Subarea Plan to add that the City values transparency, open government, public involvement, public meetings, and all documents to be available to the public.

Peter Huffman, Director, Planning and Development Services, noted that Subarea Plan meetings have utilized public outreach, steering committee, working groups, focus groups, opinion surveys, scoping meetings, and a dedicated website.

Discussion ensued regarding the language, timely proceeding, and combining amendments.

At approximately 3:10 p.m., Council Member Blocker proposed an amendment to the Subarea Plan to remove the “Container Port Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan” language to allow the work requested by the Planning Commission to review the use of the fossil fuel at the Port of Tacoma.

At approximately 3:12 p.m., Council Member Walker Lee proposed an amendment to the Subarea Plan to keep the “Container Port Element of the City’s Comprehensive Plan” language, however, add the language that requires the Planning Commission to create an accelerated plan to discuss interim regulations related to the Container Port Element in the Tideflats Subarea, prior to the finalization of the Subarea Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of accelerated and fossil fuel ban.

Mayor Strickland noted further discussion will proceed at tonight's meeting.

At approximately 3:20 p.m., Mayor Strickland asked to be excused and Council Member Lonergan to be the presiding officer to proceed with the meeting.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee Reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [17-0454](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, May 4, 2017

At approximate 3:21 p.m., Elizabeth Pauli, Interim City Manager, noted the Mayor will be proclaiming National Tourism Week and National Police Week. She then stated there is an anticipated motion to suspend the rules to add an additional ordinance to declare a state of emergency related to homeless encampments, and three or four expected motions going forward to amend Resolution No. 39723.

Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Campbell moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed fifteen minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ibsen.

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

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, McCarthy, Mello and Walker Lee

Absent: 2 - Thoms and Mayor Strickland

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 3:23 p.m.

Acting City Attorney Bill Fosbre, Chief Deputy City Attorney Chris Bacha, and Daniel Mensher, Keller Rohrbach LLP, were present.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:38 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk