



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

March 03, 2020

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:13 p.m.

Present: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

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

Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks. Public Utility Board (PUB) Chair Larkin introduced the PUB members.

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli invited Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department, to provide an update on current actions and future plans regarding the COVID-19 outbreak in Washington State.

Mayor Woodards stated that the State of the City Address will be shifted from an in-person event to a video broadcast in order to minimize public contact.

Discussion ensued regarding health protocols, actions being taken within the City, supplies for service providers, vulnerable populations, jurisdiction and communication, and protocols for prisons and detention centers.

Joint Council / Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [20-0188](#) Advanced Electric and Water Meters: Program Update and Customer Benefits

At approximately 12:35 p.m., Andre Pedefferri, Advanced Meter Program Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), presented the advanced electric and water meters program update, including advanced meter infrastructure; advanced meters in the Pacific Northwest; program scope, noting

infrastructure and software; program timeline; 12-month look ahead; the utility modernization strategy; customer benefits timeline; budget and rates impact; meter deployment readiness; customer communications; and a draft of the deployment customer communications plan.

Discussion ensued regarding jobs for meter-checking employees, SAP, payment for meter swapping, utility bills, quality control for meter reading, manual shut off of meters, dealing with leaks in water lines, and customer responsibility versus TPU responsibility.

2. [20-0190](#) Tacoma Public Utilities Director Performance Review Process

At approximately 1:29 p.m., Karen Larkin, Chair, PUB, presented the TPU Director performance review process, including performance evaluation strategies and a flow chart of actions.

The joint study session recessed at 1:34 p.m.

The joint study session reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

3. [20-0189](#) Classification and Compensation Study

At approximately 1:40 p.m., Gary Buchanan, Director, Human Resources (HR), made opening remarks and introduced Kari Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager, HR. Ms. Louie presented the class and compensation study, including the agenda; background; actions to date; what is happening now, noting new classification structure and compensation structure development; project timeline; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding new classifications, classified positions versus unclassified positions, implementation plans, compensation plans, and equity concerns.

The joint study session recessed at 2:03 p.m.

The joint study session reconvened at 2:10 p.m.

Council Briefing Items

There were no City Council briefing items presented.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [20-0191](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, February 27, 2020

City Manager Pauli stated there are two 12-Year Limited Property Tax Exemptions on tonight's agenda and that staff were present to answer questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the locations of the properties and schematics of the proposals.

City Manager Pauli further stated that there are two ceremonials on tonight's agenda, one proclaiming March 2020 as Women's History Month, and one proclaiming 2020 as the Year of the Census. She concluded by stating there are two expected changes to tonight's agenda, amendments to Resolution No. 40568, regarding the Letter of Intent between the City, Metro Parks, and the Soccer Club of Tacoma.

Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to a Joint 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 Hunter.

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

Ayes: 9 - Beale, Blocker, Hines, Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Ayes: 5 - Cooley, Flint, Larkin, Patterson, and Watson

The City Council and PUB convened to a Joint Executive Session at 2:18 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre, Chief Deputy City Attorneys Tom Morrill and Chris Bacha, and Deputy City Attorney Steve Victor were present.

The Joint Executive Session was extended by 15 minutes at 2:48 p.m. and by 10 minutes at 3:03 p.m.

The Joint Executive Session concluded, and the joint study session reconvened at 3:08 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the joint study session was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk