



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

September 18, 2018

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

Present: 8 - Blocker, Camarata, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Ushka and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 1 - Beale

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 5 - Cooley, Flint, Larkin, Patterson, and Chair Jones

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [18-1075](#) Carbon Tax/Clean Energy

At approximately 12:09 p.m., Jackie Flowers, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), provided opening remarks and introduced Chris Robinson, Tacoma Power Superintendent, and Clay Norris, Power Manager, TPU.

City Attorney Bill Fosbre provided a legal briefing. Mr. Robinson outlined the composition of emissions from various sources; described Tacoma Power's periodic need to purchase power from other suppliers; noted that Tacoma Power provides approximately 97 percent carbon-free electricity; and said Tacoma Power helps reduce carbon emissions in the region by exporting hydroelectric power.

Mr. Norris reviewed recent state legislative proposals, including Substitute Senate Bill 6203, the "Carbon Tax Bill", and various bills regarding the "100% Clean Electricity Policy Frameworks"; impact of the proposed bills on Tacoma Power's costs; carbon reduction scenarios and potential returns on investment; potential next steps and engagement with proposed legislation; and an overview of Initiative No. 1631, the "Pollution Fee".

Discussion ensued throughout regarding prohibitions on ‘fuel-switching’ incentives; possible costs and penalties related to proposed State legislation; Tacoma Power’s relationship with the Bonneville Power Administration; estimated costs to reduce regional carbon emissions; carbon tax impacts on the community, businesses, and rate payers; local and regional activities to reduce emissions; impacts of a potential carbon tax on fuel costs; increased interest in and incentives for electric vehicles and alternative fuels; impacts on other sectors beyond transportation; possible methods to reduce carbon emissions regionally by 80 percent through carbon-neutral technologies and electrification of transportation systems; potential impacts on industry, consumers, and utilities; data sources used in the report; potential uses of biogas as an alternative fuel source; limitations on direct electric vehicles incentives; the importance of pedestrian and biking infrastructure; urban density; and regional transportation factors.

City Council Briefing Items

2. [18-1076](#) Legislative Policies and Statement

At approximately 1:08 p.m., Randy Lewis, Director, Government Relations Office (GRO), provided opening remarks and introduced Alisa O’Hanlon, Government Relations Analyst, GRO, and Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, TPU. Mr. Lewis explained that unlike the City’s legislative agenda, the legislative policies include broad statements of all the positions the City has taken over the years and may take in the future, and are used to guide the GRO in working with the Washington State legislature.

Ms. O’Hanlon explained proposed revisions related to legislative philosophy, liability on negligence and nuisances, housing in high capacity transit corridors, and pre-Kindergarten and K-12 education funding and adjustments. Mr. Mather reviewed proposed revisions related to carbon emissions. Council Member Mello explained proposed changes related to climate and energy.

Mr. Mather and Ms. O’Hanlon reviewed revisions related to sustainability. Ms. O’Hanlon explained revisions related to equity in several sections, highlighting the Tacoma Fire Department Cares program related to chronic inebriates, immigration, a commitment to the File Local program for tax collection, maintaining service and access to statewide trauma care systems, and utility rates and incentives for solar projects. Ms. O’Hanlon concluded with next steps for these legislative policies, with future review of the Council’s legislative agenda after the November 2018 election.

Discussion ensued regarding language related to affordable housing, carbon emissions, family wages and immigration, and education funding. Discussion continued regarding improving clarity and consistency in the policies and statements, referencing the opioid crisis, strengthening language on collaboration with area local governments and groups, and next steps.

The joint portion of the study session was adjourned at 1:46 p.m.

The study session recessed at 1:46 p.m. and the regular study session convened at 1:50 p.m.

Other Items of Interest

3. [18-1100](#) A Letter to Governor Inslee Regarding Tacoma Public Schools

Council Member Ushka presented a letter to Governor Jay Inslee regarding school district funding, signed by Mayor Woodards, Deputy Mayor Ibsen, and Council Members Hunter and Ushka. Mayor Woodards invited other Council Members to add their signatures to the letter, if interested. Council Members Blocker, Camarata, McCarthy, and Mello requested to be added to the letter, and Mayor Woodards stated she would reach out to Council Member Beale before sending the revised letter to the Governor.

4. [18-1107](#) Council Consideration Request - Priority Hire Ordinance and Community Workforce Agreement

Council Member McCarthy presented a Council Consideration Request (CCR) regarding a proposed Priority Hire Ordinance and Community Workforce Agreement. He explained the goal to encourage employment and apprenticeship by prioritizing the hiring of residents in economically distressed areas for certain public works construction projects.

Discussion ensued regarding job training, apprenticeship, employment, and outcomes of similar programs. City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated a presentation on the disparities study is scheduled for the September 25, 2018 study session, which ties into the proposed CCR.

5. [18-1120](#) Draft Intergovernmental Agreement Concerning Cost Sharing for Subarea Planning in the Tacoma Tideflats

Mayor Woodards provided a draft Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) between the Port of Tacoma, the Puyallup Tribe, and the City to form a regional participation group. She stated that the three entities will work with Pierce County and the City of Fife on a path forward on the Tideflats Subarea

Plan process. She described next steps to produce a work plan; stated the proposed IGA would come forward at the September 25, 2018 City Council meeting; and noted the Port of Tacoma and Puyallup Tribe will review and take action on the IGA soon.

Discussion ensued regarding coordination with other entities, communication, public participation, makeup of the steering committee, consensus versus unanimous decisions, and goals moving forward.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

6. [18-1077](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, September 13, 2018

City Manager Pauli reported that Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the Old City Hall building, located at 625 South Commerce Street, were reviewed and staff are moving forward on negotiations with Surge Tacoma. She described the mixed-use project proposal, other proposals received, and the administrative negotiation phase. Discussion ensued regarding the proposal. Council Member Camarata noted that he sits on the board for Channel 253, which is connected to Surge Tacoma, and though he has no financial involvement in the company, stated he plans to recuse himself in future decisions about the RFP.

City Manager Pauli stated tonight's Council Meeting agenda includes two proclamations, proclaiming September 2018 as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and National Preparedness Month. She stated no other changes are anticipated. Mayor Woodards reminded Council that a special Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. today for an update on the homeless stability site.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:19 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk