



APPROVED 2-22-23

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
January 25, 2023
3:00 p.m.

Chair Watson called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. at the auditorium of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Carlos Watson, John O’Loughlin, William Bridges, Elly Claus-McGahan, Holland Cohen (arrived 3:48 p.m.)

Utility Technology Services (UTS) Overview

Director Flowers made introductory remarks, outlined the expertise and duties housed in UTS, and introduced Tenzin Gyaltsen, Utility Technology Director. Director Flowers also summarized legislation allowing TPU to have its own stand-alone technology team and how needs have increased exponentially since 2008 when it was first enacted. Mr. Gyaltsen then introduced the UTS team; Andrew Braeger, Terry Gifford, Rick Munson, Tony Landrith, Johnny Rivera, and Richard Walloch.

Mr. Gyaltsen provided an overview of the foundation of UTS (its core pillars, enablers, services) and UTS’s organizational placement. It is embedded within Tacoma Power, but serves all divisions. The governance and strategy of UTS were then summarized. The Technology Operating Model (TOM) is organized into four key areas: capabilities; applications; platform; and infrastructure. Each of these key areas of TOM were then detailed. Mr. Gyaltsen concluded the presentation by outlining compliance requirements by which UTS must comply, key projects and programs such as Energy Imbalance Market and Advanced Meter Infrastructure, organizational structure, and budget.

Board Policies Discussion

Tom Morrill, Chief Deputy City Attorney, walked the Board through possible changes to the Board’s Governance Policies (GPs) that were identified at the retreat in November 2022. The Board discussed changes to GP2 (Meetings), Section Eight, having to do with remote participation rules and how it could better reflect current practices and technology capabilities. Draft changes to the policy will be brought before the Board at a future meeting.

Executive Session

At 4:33 p.m., Chair Watson moved to convene an Executive Session to Review the Performance of a Public Employee [RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)] for approximately 75 minutes; seconded by Board Member O’Loughlin. Voice vote taken and carried.

Chair Watson announced that after the executive session has ended, the Board will not take any action and he would return to adjourn the study session.

Adjournment

At 5:14 p.m., Chair Watson returned to the dais and adjourned the study session.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



Holland Cohen, Secretary