



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402

Conference Room 16

August 20, 2019

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

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

Present: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 4 - Cooley, Larkin, Patterson, and Watson

Absent: 1 - Flint

Deputy Mayor McCarthy provided opening remarks. Public Utility Board (PUB) Chair Larkin introduced the PUB Members.

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [19-0888](#) 2019 Legislative Session Recap

At approximately 12:08 p.m., Anita Gallagher, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced Alisa O'Hanlon, Government Relations Coordinator, City Manager's Office (CMO); Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU); and Marian Dacca, State Relations Manager, TPU; and made opening remarks on the 2019 legislative session recap. Together they presented the 2019 legislative session overview; legislative agenda updates, noting fiscal, neighborhoods, and transportation updates; federal issues; and the upcoming calendar.

Discussion ensued regarding funding needed for current projects and resources for projects.

2. [19-0889](#) Safety Initiative Update

At approximately 12:37 p.m., Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager, made opening remarks, and introduced John Lawrence, Power Section Manager, TPU. Mr. Lawrence introduced Cheryl Bidleman, Assistant Human Resources Director, TPU, and Matt Janzow, Management Analyst II, TPU. Together, they presented the Citywide Safety Initiative, including an overview, background, injury rate comparison, cost of injuries, the safety commitment and goal, the citywide safety initiative, an update on key objectives, understanding the current state, a summary of the findings, the future program structure, recruiting for the safety director position, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding next steps, feedback from employees, classified employees versus represented employees, injuries among employees in the field, types of injuries incurred in the workplace and things that caused those injuries, numbers for Tacoma versus other cities, policies versus the ability to maintain protocols, the professions with highest risk, and safety issues for private employers versus the City.

Joint Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Council Member Ibsen moved to convene to a Joint Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 20 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Ushka.

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

Ayes: 8 - Beale, Blocker, Hunter, Ibsen, McCarthy, Mello, Thoms and Ushka

Absent: 1 - Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Ayes: 4 - Cooley, Larkin, Patterson, and Watson

Absent: 1 - Flint

The Council and PUB convened to a joint Closed Session at 1:27 p.m.

The joint Closed Session was extended by 10 minutes at 1:47 p.m.

The joint Closed Session concluded and the joint study session reconvened at 1:57 p.m.

The joint study session was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. and the regular study session convened at 2:03 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

3. [19-0890](#) Second Quarter Financial Report

At approximately 2:04 p.m., Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, presented the second quarter financial report, including the 2019 General Fund update; General Fund revenues, noting revenue variance, expenditures, and expenditure variance; other funds; budget initiatives and Results253; mid-biennium modification schedule; and summary.

Discussion ensued regarding efficiency rates and developing ideas.

Other Items of Interest

4. [19-0904](#) Council Consideration Request - KNKX 88.5 FM City Council Contingency Funding Request

Council Member Mello presented his Council Consideration Request (CCR) to allocate \$45,000 to assist in the relocation of KNKX 88.5 FM to downtown Tacoma.

Discussion ensued regarding opportunities for engagement, schedule for opening, past efforts to move, and benefits of the move.

Committee Reports

There were no Committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

5. [19-0891](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, August 15, 2019

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's agenda, and one expected change to continue the final reading of Ordinance 28601 to October 27, 2019.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk