



PUB APPROVED 12/10/25

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Meeting  
November 5, 2025  
6:30 p.m.

Chair O'Loughlin called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** John O'Loughlin; Elly Claus-McGahan; William Bridges;

**Excused:** Anita Gallagher; Devin Hampton

**Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Mr. Bridges moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared adopted.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Recognitions**

Doug Stoeckicht, Principal Communications and Marketing Analyst, shared that the Media and Communications Office won two Puget Sound Summit Awards. The first was for the Power Moves campaign recognizing excellence in public relations across the region. The Power Moves campaign also won Best of Show, which is reserved for the highest scoring entry.

Jessica Knickerbocker, Deputy Water Superintendent and this year's United Way Campaign Chair, shared that this year's TPU campaign raised \$154,657.08 for the United Way. The check was presented to representatives from the United Way.

**Regular Agenda**

Departmental

D-1 Resolution U-11568 - A resolution to award certain contracts and approve certain purchases:

1. Increase contract with NAES Power Contractors, Inc., for additional labor and supervision to perform maintenance, repairs, renovations, and other mutually agreed-upon work at Tacoma Power facilities (\$700,000, plus applicable taxes. Cumulative total \$4,650,000, plus applicable taxes) [Adam Davis, Engineering Project Mgr];
2. Increase contract with Absher Construction Co., for the new warehouse and shops project to advance the construction trade partner design, engineering, and shop drawings (\$1,246,339, plus a five percent contingency for a projected

contract total of \$3,016,776, plus applicable taxes) [Carol Powers, Principal Engineer];

3. Award contract to Polydyne Inc., for the supply of water treatment polymer chemicals (\$237,200, plus applicable taxes. Option to renew for four additional one-year periods for a projected contract amount of \$1,186,000, plus applicable taxes) [Kim DeFolo, Principal Engineer];;
4. Award contracts to Newco Inc., dba Cascade Columbia Distribution Co.; Northstar Chemical Inc.; JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc.; Hasa, Inc.; Chemtrade Chemicals US LLC; and USALCO, LLC for the supply of water treatment chemicals (\$244,200; \$610,400; \$551,300; \$100,000; \$172,200; \$187,600 respectively for a total of \$1,865,700, plus applicable taxes) [Kim DeFolo, Principal Engineer];
5. Award three-year contract to CCS Facility Services for janitorial services and supplies at Tacoma Rail (\$1,000,000, plus applicable taxes. Includes option to renew for two, one-year extensions) [Kari Halliday, Chief Mechanical Officer].

Mr. Bridges moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

In response to a Board inquiry seeking clarification on the contract extensions, Adam Davis, Engineering Project Manager, explained that the contract extension is sought to get a new contract in place before the termination date to fit in planned work without disruption. An attempt to streamline the contract timeline was made, but the staff member in charge left service. The new end date is May 2026.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

D-2 Motion 25-07 – That in accordance with Tacoma Municipal Code 1.06.380, the Board approves the assignment of Jennifer Taylor to the position of Deputy City Attorney to the Department of Public Utilities legal office upon the recommendation of the City Attorney

Mr. Bridges moved to approve the motion; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

Engel Lee, Chief Deputy City Attorney, shared that staff at the TPU office is being expanded from five to seven attorneys via transfers from the GG legal office. Ms. Taylor is experienced, and her role will allow TPU to save money by reducing the use of outside counsel for litigation matters.

There was no public comment.

Voice vote taken and carried. The motion was approved.

D-3 Motion 25-08 – That in accordance with Tacoma Municipal Code 1.06.380, the Board approves the assignment of Barret Schulze to the position of Deputy City Attorney to the Department of Public Utilities legal office upon the recommendation of the City Attorney

Mr. Bridges moved to approve the motion; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

Engel Lee, Chief Deputy City Attorney, shared that similar to Motion 25-7, this appointment is part of the TPU legal office expansion. Mr. Schulze will help on the legal advisory team.

There was no public comment.

Voice vote taken and carried. The motion was approved.

D-4 Resolution U-11569 – Adopt and approve TPU’s federal and state legislative agenda for 2026

Mr. Bridges moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

Because Board Member Bridges would need to recuse himself from this resolution, Chair O’Loughlin moved to table this item to a date to be determined to avoid quorum issues; seconded by Board Member Claus-McGahan. There were no public comments on the tabling of this resolution. Voice vote taken and carried.

D-5 Resolution U-11570 – Adopt and approve TPU’s federal and state policy guidance document for 2026

Mr. Bridges moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

Because Board Member Bridges would need to recuse himself from this resolution, Chair O’Loughlin moved to table this item to a date to be determined to avoid quorum issues; seconded by Board Member Claus-McGahan. There were no public comments on the tabling of this resolution. Voice vote taken and carried.

#### **D. Reports of the Director**

##### **Tacoma Water System Development Charge Public Hearing**

Before the public comment period for Tacoma Water’s Water System Development Charges was opened, Dana Larsen, Water Division Manager, provided background. The System Development Charge (SDC) is a one-time charge due at the time of the meter purchase. It is imposed on the sale of water service as a condition of receiving or upsizing a new water connection. It is authorized by RCW 35.92.052 and adopted by Tacoma Water in 1997 and funds critical infrastructure to support growth of housing and commercial development. The SDC study overview, methodology, results, fee schedule recommendation, and communication efforts were detailed. The plan is to phase into the SDC study results over five years beginning February 1, 2026, and reevaluate SDC inputs and methodology in 2030.

Chair O’Loughlin then opened the public comment period on the SDC. There were no public comments.

##### **SAP ‘Go Live’**

Director Flowers reported that the city is undergoing a major upgrade to its core software system that will affect customer-facing portals and the call center. The outage periods that will affect the availability of certain payment systems were reviewed.

### Utility Bill Assistance

Director Flowers encouraged the public to reach out to TPU Customer Services to inquire about qualifying for utility bill assistance considering extra hardships that may be experienced due to the federal interruption of benefits and federal pay furloughs.

### **E. Final Board Comments**

There were no final comments by the Board.

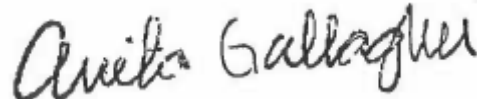
### **F. Adjournment**

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m. until Wednesday, December 10, 2025, for a study session at 3:00 p.m. and a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John O'Loughlin".

John O'Loughlin, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anita Gallagher".

Anita Gallagher, Secretary