



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

December 03, 2013

12:00 PM

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the joint study session to order at 12:09 p.m.

Present: 9 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Public Utility Board Members Present: 4 – Flint, Jones, Nelson, and Trudnowski

Public Utility Board Members Absent: 1 – Patterson

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

Mayor Strickland called upon Public Utility Board Chair David Nelson to introduce the Board Members present.

2. 13-0351

Tacoma Power Integrated Resource Plan

Mayor Strickland announced the first joint study session topic is MyAccount, the Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) customer payments website. Bill Gaines, TPU Director, stated the presentation order for today's meeting is being adjusted and the first topic is the Tacoma Power Integrated Resource Plan. Nicholas Garcia, Tacoma Power, provided background information on Tacoma Power's customers, generation, resource portfolio, and 2012 generation and load data. Discussion ensued regarding Tacoma Power's resource portfolio.

Mr. Garcia then reviewed Tacoma Power's 2013 Integrated Resource Plan, including annual load-resource balances, conservation benefits and targets, Washington State's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), renewable energy credits (RECs), Tacoma Power's current RPS compliance status and options, and anticipated impacts on rates. Discussion ensued regarding resource generation levels, RECs, the cost of renewable compliance, how electric cars will affect power usage, and LED (light emitting diode) lighting. Mayor Strickland requested information on the number of low-income customers.

1. 13-0350 MyAccount - Customer Payments Website Upgrade

Steve Hatcher, Customer Services Manager, provided background information on the MyAccount website. John Hoffman, Customer Services, reviewed the reason updates were made, differences between the previous and current websites, improvements, the registration process, and an overview of the billing profile and summary of accounts. He then reviewed the project timeline, the transition process for Customer Services, communication efforts, customer registration and satisfaction results, and MyAccount features for property managers. Discussion ensued regarding the website, including payment options, whether it can be accessed using a mobile device, whether it is ADA compliant, whether it will be translated into other languages, whether customers can still pay online after receiving a shut-off notice, whether usage comparisons are still available, whether a local vendor was used to build the site, and the property manager features. Council Member Walker suggested staff provide an option that allows customers to register without their account number. Council Member Woodards suggested TPU work with the Media and Communications Office staff regarding using other languages on the website.

3. 13-0352 Mountain Rail Division Annual Review

Dale King, Tacoma Rail Superintendent, reviewed the Tacoma Rail Mountain Division's memorandum of agreement with Public Works, and asset dispositions, including the lease and/or sale of portions of the railroad, and cost reductions for inspections and maintenance. Board Member Flint stated there is an opportunity to build a trail to connect Eatonville to Pierce County's long-range trail map using the Morton line segment of the railroad. Mr. King then reviewed upcoming matters for Council consideration, the Mountain Division's financial performance and projected financials, and the environmental benefits of shipping by rail. Discussion ensued regarding maintenance fees for the line of track in the Freighthouse Square area.

Mayor Strickland adjourned the joint meeting at 1:21 p.m. and announced Council would take a brief recess.

The study session reconvened at 1:27 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

4. 13-0353 South Downtown Subarea Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Mayor Strickland announced the first regular study session topic is the South Downtown Subarea Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Ian Munce, Planning and Development Services, reviewed the subarea plan and EIS, including overarching project goals; proposed policy, code actions, and project actions; proposed recommendations to change the Tacoma Dome area zoning to downtown mixed-use and expand the reduced parking area to all of south downtown; and the project schedule. Discussion ensued regarding street upgrades, boundaries, how population projections will affect all subarea plans, the importance of long-term development planning, and whether the plan addresses the impacts of jobs recently relocated to the downtown area.

Other Items of Interest

Randy Lewis, Government Relations Officer, provided answers to questions raised by Council at the study session last week related to the 2013-2014 legislative agendas, specifically items relating to the restoration of liquor excise taxes, transaction taxes for recreational marijuana, and the use of foreclosed properties for affordable housing. Discussion ensued regarding cost recovery for liquor excise taxes and legislative agenda language related to using foreclosed property for affordable housing. Council Member Walker requested staff add language to the legislative agenda regarding behavioral and mental health. Council Member Lonergan requested staff revise legislative agenda language related to using foreclosed property for affordable housing.

Agenda Review

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there will be one proclamation proclaiming December 2-6, 2013 as Employee Learning Week in the City of Tacoma, one proclamation proclaiming the week of December 9-13, 2013 as DECA Week in the City of Tacoma, and a recognition of the Digital Cities Survey Winner 2013 Award. He then stated there will be changes to Resolution No. 38789 per requests made today, and there will be a public hearing on the South Downtown Subarea Plan.

Council Member Walker requested staff change the presentation order of the topics for the study session next week.

Mayor Strickland stated the Committee of the Whole meeting today will be delayed to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Executive Session - City Manager Performance Review

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Campbell moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to discuss the City Manager's performance review, the session not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Lonergan.

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

Ayes: 9 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Mayor Strickland stated Council would take a five minute break followed by Executive Session.

The Council convened to Executive Session at 2:30 p.m.
City Attorney Elizabeth Pauli was present.

The Executive Session was extended for five minutes at 3:30 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 3:35 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk