



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402, Council Chambers
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569

February 20, 2024
12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Hines called the joint study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 8 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines, Rumbaugh, Scott, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 1 - Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 3 - Claus-McGahan, Gallagher, and O'Loughlin

Absent: 2 - Bridges and Watson

Chair Watson arrived at 12:01 p.m. and Mayor Woodards arrived at 12:19 p.m.

Council Member Scott initially participated virtually, and arrived in-person at 12:10 p.m.

Mayor Woodards, Council Member Ushka, Chair Watson, and Board Member Gallagher participated virtually.

Joint City Council / Tacoma Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [24-0175](#) Cushman-Adams Substation Memorandum of Understanding and Timeline Update
[John Gaines, Community Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities]

Chair Watson arrived here, at 12:01 p.m.

At approximately 12:02 p.m., John Gaines, Community Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), introduced Lauren Hoogkamer, Principal Planner, Planning and Development Services, and provided opening remarks on the Cushman-Adams Substation memorandum of understanding and timeline, including an agenda; overview, noting substation locations; City Council and Public Utility Board (PUB) direction; and memorandum of

understanding updates. Hoogkamer continued with the engagement approach; future use study timeline and milestones; and transforming ideas into scenarios, noting community workshops. Gaines concluded with staff's request for City Council and PUB guidance, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for collaboration, timeline and cost provisions, and site security and urban explorers.

Mayor Woodards arrived here, at 12:19 p.m.

Discussion continued regarding collaboration with the Proctor Neighborhood Plan, plot size, negotiations and community site activation, detachment from Adams Substation, citywide conversation and communication, potential scenarios, seismic retrofitting and building code, and historic registered sites.

2. [24-0176](#)

Equity in Contracting

[Kacee Woods, Business and Program Manager, Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 12:35 p.m., Kacee Woods, Business and Program Manager, Community and Economic Development, presented on the City's Equity in Contracting (EIC) program, including an agenda; timeline; 2023 program outcomes, noting the data is a representative of Public Works and improvement projects; 2023 efforts; challenges and solutions; 2024 priorities, noting internal efforts, policy and program review, and external efforts; the City's Disparity Study; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding EIC delegated authority process; collaboration with Tacoma Anchor Network and the Joint Municipal Action Committee; external and internal dashboards; architecture and engineering potential EIC requirements; EIC exceptions and waivers, noting internal structural changes; Disparity Study cadence; decreased data, including contracts and contractor capacity limitations; sustainability; comparison between other jurisdictions; total count of awards; and the Links to Opportunity project.

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The joint study session concluded at 1:09 p.m.

The regular study session convened at 1:10 p.m.

City Council Briefing Items

There were no briefing items.

Other Items of Interest

3. [24-0178](#) Council Consideration Request - Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest
[Council Member Diaz]

Council Member Diaz presented a Council Consideration Request to allocate \$10,000 of Council Contingency Funds to support access to phone service for detainees in the Northwest ICE Processing Center (NWIPC). She concluded by stating the NWIPC requires detainees to utilize a private, for-profit phone service to place phone calls, and these allocated funds would be used by Advocates for Immigrants in Detention Northwest to distribute funds to up to 105 low-income detainees per month to be used to call friends, family, and legal advocates.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for Council Member Diaz's leadership, reporting sexual assault calls for free, concern for lack of legal advocates, continual funding opportunities, logistics on how payment is distributed to detainees, and rates per minute.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

4. [24-0177](#) Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, February 15, 2024
[Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager]


City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, a recognition for Lunar New Year, and recognizing Dedrick Crocklem; no changes are expected to tonight's agenda; and tonight's meeting includes a public hearing for extending an existing moratorium on certain uses within the South Tacoma Groundwater Protection District.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 1:22 p.m.



Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor



Nicole Emery, City Clerk