

APPROVED 8-8-18

MINUTES
 City of Tacoma
 Public Utility Board Meeting
 July 25, 2018
 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Jones called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Tacoma Public Utilities.

Present: Mark Patterson, Karen Larkin, Bryan Flint; Woodrow E. Jones, Jr. Christine Cooley

The meeting was quorate.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

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

Recognitions

There were no recognitions.

Comments from the Public

Mitch Shook made comments in support of the Internet Service Providers continuing as a Click! retail partner.

Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

Regular Agenda

- D-1 Resolution U-11019 – Award contracts and approve purchases:
1. Award three-year contract to Ray Klein, Inc. DBA Professional Credit Service for citywide collection services (includes option to renew for three additional one-year terms for a projected contract value of \$2,718,280 none of which is paid by the City).
 2. Increase contract to ERM-West, Inc., for environmental regulatory compliance support (\$300,000; cumulative total \$500,000, plus applicable taxes);
 3. Award two-year contract with Robinson Noble, Inc., for environmental regulatory compliance support (\$300,000 plus \$100,000 for each of three optional one-year extensions for a potential cumulative total of \$600,000).

In response to a Board request for information on item number two, Jeromy Adams, Environmental Compliance Officer, shared information on the former resort building located at Cushman. At the end of December 2017, the resort's lease was terminated and properties returned to Tacoma Power. The intent is to evaluate the property for any unsafe portions. The structures in question are not part of historic landmark status. If demolition occurs, staff would need to go through a full evaluation of the structures to confirm if any hazardous materials are present.

In response to a Board request for the status of the Cushman Substation environmental issues, Mr. Adams stated that preliminary site assessment is complete. However, the magnitude of the impacts is unknown at this time as additional sampling is needed.

Mr. Flint commented on item number one in that he appreciates that the selected vendor for collections is not only qualified, but stated in its response that they take a more affable approach to collection of accounts. Michael San Soucie, City Treasurer, made comments in appreciation of Mr. Flint's remarks.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

D-2 Motion 18-10 – A motion to direct CTC Technology & Energy to negotiate with Rainier Connect, Wave Broadband, and Yomura Fiber to develop formal partnership proposals that further the City of Tacoma's 12 policy goals; that any necessary contracts be made with CTC Technology & Energy to foster this direction; and that the policy makers and public be consistently informed and involved in the progress of such discussions.

Ms. Larkin moved to approve the motion; seconded by Mr. Flint.

Tom Morrill, Chief Deputy City Attorney, stated that this motion is a result of the presentation and discussion from the July 17 joint study session with the City Council. CTC Technology & Energy recommended moving forward with negotiations for formal partnerships with the three entities based on the twelve Council and Board community goals.

Board Member Larkin commented that this motion supports seeking the best option for telecommunication services. It is incumbent on the Board and Council to continue to evaluate public/private partnerships, the ability to meet the twelve community goals, and consider financial risk and customer service. This decision is to continue to do due diligence and to look at partnership options. This is not a decision to enter into a partnership, but making a decision to have the consultant work to negotiate with partners to see what twelve community goals can be accomplished and what services can be provided to the public.

Board Member Cooley commented that it is good to pursue due diligence and keep options open at the same time.

Board Member Patterson made positive remarks about the work done in the joint study session and the work done to clarify the proposals and that he's encouraged by the three interested firms.

Public comment was taken on this motion. Mitchell Shook made remarks in opposition of this motion and in favor of staying the current course of the Click! business plan.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was approved.

H. Reports of the Director

Jim Sant, Deputy Director for Administration, reported that beginning this week and for the next several weeks, TPU is conducting its residential customer satisfaction study. This study helps TPU to measure customer perceptions and awareness of programs and to benchmark customer satisfaction. This will inform our initiatives and target communications. Customers will be contacted by phone or email by Market Strategies International. In response to a Board Member request to reassure customers that this is not a scam call, Mr. Sant stated that information will be put on the website so that customers know this is a real survey.

Joe Tellez, Chief Technology Officer, and Joe Wilson, T&D Manager, provided an update on the upgraded Energy Management System (EMS). On July 17, the new EMS was brought online. The EMS is a complex system that gives operators visibility to electric operation. The old software and hardware were obsolete and the new technology has a lower cost of ownership and meets cybersecurity standards. All functionality and interfaces were tested for redundancy and failure and all worked as designed when brought online. Board Members commented on the importance of this system and made positive remarks about staff work that went into completing this project successfully.

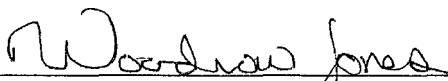
I. Comments by the Board


Board Members presented a plaque to Linda McCrea in appreciation of her service as Interim Director of Utilities since December 1, 2017. Each Board Member expressed appreciation to Ms. McCrea for stepping out of retirement to lead TPU during a time of transition and made positive remarks about her contributions.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board was adjourned at 7:12 p.m. until Wednesday, August 8, 2018 for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Tacoma Public Utilities, followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Tacoma Public Utilities.

Approved:


Woodrow E. Jones, Jr. Chair


Bryan Flint