



City of Tacoma

Government Performance and Finance Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 827 5299 8740

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/82752998740 Passcode: 614650

February 15, 2022

10:00 AM

Chair John Hines, Vice Chair Kristina Walker, Joe Bushnell,
Sarah Rumbaugh, Kiara Daniels (alternate), Mark Patterson (ex officio)

Call To Order

Chair Hines called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Bushnell, Hines, Rumbaugh and Walker

All Council Members participated virtually.

Ex Officio Member Mark Patterson was also in attendance.

Briefing Items

1. [22-0197](#)

Rainier Connect Contract Update

[Sharon Brophy, Power Supervisor II, Tacoma Public Utilities]

At approximately 10:01 a.m., Sharon Brophy, Power Supervisor II, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), introduced Joe Wilson, Power and Distribution Manager, TPU. Mr. Wilson presented an update on the an update on the City's contract with Rainier Connect to operate the Click! Network, including an agenda, history and background, the indefeasible right to use (IRU) contract, and what is not in the IRU contract. Ms. Brophy presented a contract update; the 12 policy goals; top policy goals, noting public ownership of assets, preserving competition, and affordability; milestones achieved; a commitment reporting example; an IRU fee payment example; next steps; and contact information.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding Rainier Connect's input; upgrades made by Rainier Connect; whether a senior discount exists for Rainier Connect services; Rainier Connect's efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic; whether regular updates on Rainier Connect will be scheduled for

the Committee; informing the full City Council; Rainier Connect discontinuing cable services on March 17, 2022; and rate increases, noting time frames for notices and recent increases.

2. [22-0198](#)

Return to In-Person Meetings

[John Hines, Chair, Government Performance and Finance Committee]

At approximately 10:48 a.m., Chair Hines presented a discussion about the return to in-person public meetings, including background information, noting metrics chosen at the September 21, 2021, meeting; recent changes in COVID-19 case rates; invitations that are being made for Council Members to attend events in person; a proposal that starting February 23, 2022, the City Council and Public Utility Board (PUB) will have the option to hold meetings in a hybrid format; potential conditions to hold hybrid meetings; having the option to continue hosting virtual meetings; and that the first potential hybrid City Council meeting would be on March 1, 2022.

Discussion ensued regarding next steps; how meeting status will be communicated to the public; support for hybrid meetings; adding verbiage to the proposal to allow the PUB to make decisions for TPU meeting formats; whether Council Members would be required to attend hybrid meetings in person; whether March 1, 2022, is too soon; that City Council Committees and other Committees, Boards, and Commissions would not be affected by these rule changes; and which other local jurisdictions are holding public meetings in person.

MOTION: Vice Chair Walker moved to forward the return to in-person public meetings recommendations to the full City Council.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Rumbaugh.

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

Ayes: 4 - Bushnell, Hines, Rumbaugh and Walker

3. [22-0199](#)

Tacoma Water Long-Range Financial Plan

[Jodi Collins, Assistant Water Division Manager; Lyna Vo, Senior Utilities Economist, Tacoma Public Utilities]

At approximately 11:06 a.m., Jim Sant, Deputy Director, TPU, provided opening remarks and introduced Lyna Vo, Senior Utilities Economist, and Jodie Collins, Assistant Water Division Manager, TPU. Ms. Vo presented the Tacoma Water Long-Range Financial Plan (LRFP), including an overview, LRFP contents, and foundational elements of the LRFP. Ms. Collins

continued with review of risks and opportunities; developing the base case; the 2021/2022 biennium scenario; a summary, noting anticipating projects, optimizing debt, and stabilizing rates; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the purpose of this presentation, considerations for tertiary water usage in long-range planning, franchise fees, and the past and present demand for water.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [22-0200](#) March 1, 2022 - Monthly Budget Update; Advanced Metering Update
March 15, 2022 - Tacoma Power Long-Range Financial Plan Overview
April 5, 2022 - Monthly Budget Update; Tacoma Public Utilities Financial Policies and Strategic Directives

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on March 1, 2022, and will include updates on the monthly budget and TPU's advanced metering project; and that the March 15, 2022, meeting will include a Long-Range Financial Plan overview from Tacoma Power.

Other Items of Interest

Discussion ensued regarding a future Information Technology Department discussion, utility rates and long-range planning, a consultant report on the Media and Communications Office, whether an Environmental Services bonding presentation should come to this Committee, bonding and debt capacity, a lawsuit regarding tertiary water treatment, and TPU bonding and debt capacity.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Heidi S., speaking on the Rainier Connect contract.
2. Carol Berry, speaking on the Rainier Connect contract.
3. Kerri, speaking on the Rainier Connect contract.
4. Venus D., speaking on the Rainier Connect contract.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m.



John Hines, Chair



Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office