



City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

September 17, 2013

12:00 PM

JOINT CITY COUNCIL / UTILITY BOARD MEETING

Call to Order

Mayor Strickland called the joint study session to order at 12:04 p.m.

Present: 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Woodards and Mayor Strickland

Absent: 1 - Walker

Council Member Walker arrived at 12:05 p.m.

Public Utility Board Members Present: 5 – Flint, Jones, Nelson, Patterson, and Trudnowski.

Public Utility Board Members Absent: None.

Joint Council/Utility Board Briefing Items

Mayor Strickland called up Chair Nelson to introduce the Public Utility Board members.

Council Member Walker arrived here, at 12:05 p.m.

1. 13-0095 Infrastructure Projects - Status Update

Mayor Strickland announced the first joint study session topic is a status update on infrastructure projects. Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) Director Bill Gaines provided opening remarks and introduced Pat McCarty, Tacoma Power. Mr. McCarty reviewed the Cushman Hydroelectric Project, including the Cushman No. 1 and 2 dams, the Cushman No. 2 Powerhouse, the 2009 settlement agreement, the 2010 FERC license, the North Fork Powerhouse and Fish Passage Facility, turbines, the updated business case for the North Fork Powerhouse, the downstream fish passage, the floating surface collector, and hatcheries. Discussion ensued regarding the distance of the tram, the amount of power generated by the dams, and the campground ownership transition. Council Member Mello requested staff provide regular updates on the fish passage efforts.

Chris McMeen, Tacoma Water, provided an update on the Green River Filtration Facility, including regulatory compliance; the project partners, schedule, cost, funding, and risks; the project site, including former and current pictures, and the site model; the economic impact, including local investment and Historically Underutilized Business participation; and the project status summary. Discussion ensued regarding the local economic impact of the project, whether cost savings will impact utility rates, and cost savings due to the engineering style of the project. Council Member Mello requested information regarding the impact of the Public Works Trust Fund Loan on the project. Mr. Gaines thanked Randy Krueger, Tacoma Water, noting the project is under budget and on-time due to his management of the project.

2. 13-0096 Habitat for Humanity Ductless Heat Pump Study

Chris Robinson, Tacoma Power, provided information on ductless heat pumps (DHP), including why they should be used, how they work, and how they displace heating. He then reviewed TPU's DHP program, including challenges and the partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Mr. Robinson then reviewed the Habitat for Humanity DHP Study, including the approach, how TPU will use the results, partners and funders, and customer feedback. Mr. Gaines noted TPU is proud of this energy saving program because it was created in-house and not imported from another utility. Discussion ensued regarding how the program effects air quality and non-attainment, who is eligible to participate in the program, and outreach efforts. Council Member Boe requested information regarding how the program addresses fresh air requirements and zoning requirements for the location of condensing units.

Mayor Strickland adjourned the joint study session at 1:08 p.m. and announced a short break to allow for change of staff.

Council Briefing Items

3. 13-0097 Tacoma Link Fares

Mayor Strickland called the regular study session to order at 1:11 p.m. and announced the first topic is Tacoma Link fares. She then provided opening remarks and background information; and introduced Chelsea Levy, Sound Transit. Ms. Levy provided background information on Tacoma Link fares, and reviewed the Sound Transit Free Fare Policy and comparable transit fares. Mayor Strickland noted free buses in Seattle were subsidized by the City of Seattle. Brian Brooke, Sound Transit, reviewed proposed Tacoma Link fares, projected impacts, outreach, mitigation, and the timeline. Discussion ensued regarding outreach, mitigation ideas, proposed fares, potential changes in service, ridership statistics, and potential impacts to Pierce Transit. Mayor Strickland stated on September 19, 2013, there will be an open house in the lobby of the Pantages Theater from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and a public hearing at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers; and noted staff requested public

comment at many community and stakeholder presentations throughout the summer. Ms. Levy noted staff is willing to meet with anyone who would like more information or would like to provide comment; and stated requests should be sent to Mr. Brooke at brian.brooke@soundtransit.org.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Agenda Review

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there will be three proclamations proclaiming September 20, 2013 as POW/MIA Day, September 22, 2013 as Downtown to Defiance Sunday Parkways Day, and September 18, 2013 as Safe Streets Day.

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Council Member Woodards moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a)(b) to discuss labor negotiations, the session not to exceed 30 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

The Council convened to Closed Session at 2:16 p.m.

The Closed Session concluded and the study session reconvened at 2:46 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Marilyn Strickland, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk