



# City of Tacoma City Council Study Session Minutes

733 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 16

**March 18, 2014**

**12:00 PM**

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## Joint Meeting with the Tacoma Public Utility Board

### Call to Order

Deputy Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:07 p.m.

**Present:** 8 - Boe, Campbell, Ibsen, Lonergan, Mello, Thoms, Walker and Woodards

**Absent:** 1 - Mayor Strickland

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

Public Utility Board Members Absent: 0

### Joint Council/Public Utilities Board Briefing Items

Chair Nelson introduced the Public Utility Board members and Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) Director Bill Gaines. Mr. Gaines stated the topics for the meeting were requested by Mayor Strickland, and the technology and market impacts on municipal communication networks will be discussed first.

#### 1. 14-0196

Technology and Market Impacts on Municipal Communication Networks

Tenzin Gyaltzen, Click! Network, provided background information and reviewed the evolving video market, including competition, current trends in the industry, and potential legislation changes. Mr. Gyaltzen concluded by reviewing the implications to Click!, actions taken, and next steps. Discussion ensued regarding the advantages Click! has compared to other cable networks, new competitors in the video market, network infrastructure, and the declining customer base industry-wide. Board Member Flint stated the City has an opportunity during the charter review process to include the internet as a utility service, similar to water, power, and rail.

Discussion continued regarding Click! Network services, including rates, the possibility of including the internet as a utility service, successes in other cities, franchise agreements, and financing improvements.

2. **14-0197** Tacoma Public Utilities Franchise Agreements with Municipalities
- Deputy Mayor Woodards announced the next joint study session topic is the TPU franchise agreements with other municipalities. Chief Deputy City Attorney Bill Fosbre reviewed the purpose of franchise agreements and explained the reason TPU has them. Bob Mack, TPU, reviewed the history of franchise agreements. Mr. Fosbre then reviewed franchise agreements for Tacoma Power, Click! Network, and Tacoma Water. He concluded by reviewing recommendations for future franchise agreements. Discussion ensued regarding double taxation, whether TPU has franchise agreements with entities that purchase wholesale water or power, non-compete fees, and the consequences of not adopting the proposed recommendations.

Deputy Mayor Woodards adjourned the joint meeting at 1:30 p.m. and stated there would be a five minutes recess.

### **City Council Briefing Items**

3. **14-0198** Community Development Block Grant & Emergency Solutions Grant Funding Recommendations for 2014-2015 Action Plan

Deputy Mayor Woodards called the regular study session to order at 1:35 p.m. and announced the first regular study session topic is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding recommendations for the 2014-15 Action Plan. Carey Jenkins, Community and Economic Development, reviewed the funding recommendations, annual federal funds, and provided background information. He then reviewed the Housing and Urban Development community planning and development allocation; CDBG recommended allocations for housing, public facilities, and economic development activities; recommended funding allocation of HOME Investment Partnership funds for 2014-2015; the types of programs recommended by housing and economic development service providers; neighborhood projects; and funding recommendations for the down payment assistance and multifamily residential programs. Discussion ensued regarding funding for contracted economic development activities, the impact of reallocating funds, and neighborhood projects.

Pam Duncan, Neighborhood and Community Services, reviewed Human Services funding recommendations, including CDBG and ESG funding priorities and recommended allocations, and the funding process. Mr. Jenkins concluded by reviewing next steps. Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations, including the lack of funds for youth emergency stabilization programs. Deputy Mayor Woodards requested the allocation amounts for previous years for CDBG Human Services and ESG funding recommendations.

## **Other Items of Interest**

There were no other items of interest.

## **Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report**

City Manager T.C. Broadnax stated there will be one proclamation proclaiming March 18, 2014 as Tacoma Kick Butts Day; a public hearing related to the downtown Business Improvement Area; and there will be Citizens' Forum.

4.      **14-0195**      Weekly Report to the City Council, March 13, 2014

## **Adjournment**

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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Victoria Woodards, Deputy Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk