



APPROVED 10/26/22

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Meeting  
October 12, 2022  
6:30 p.m.

Mr. Watson called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Carlos Watson, John O'Loughlin, Holland Cohen, William Bridges, Elly Claus-McGahan

The meeting was quorate.

**Minutes of the Previous Meetings**

Mr. O'Loughlin moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be held over to the meeting of October 26, 2022; seconded by Ms. Cohen. Voice vote was taken and carried for the approval of the September 28, 2022 meeting minutes are held over.

**Comments by the Public**

Kit Burns made comments outlining his concerns about the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) and its cost to benefits ratio and requested that the Board conduct further review of the subject.

**Regular Agenda**

C-1 Motion 22-15 – In accordance with Governance Process Three, Section One, Election of Officers, of the Public Utility Board Governance Processes, that Carlos Watson, John O'Loughlin, and Holland Cohen be nominated and elected as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary respectively.

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to approve the motion; seconded by Ms. Cohen

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

C-2 Motion 22-16 – Confirm the appointment of John O'Loughlin and Elly Claus-McGahan to the Tacoma City Council Audit Advisory Board for terms commensurate with their terms on the Public Utility Board.

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to approve the motion; seconded by Ms. Cohen.

Clerk read: Council Resolution 36620 established the Audit Advisory Board, which consists of Council Members sitting on the Government Performance and Finance Committee, two Public Utility Board Members, and one citizen member. The Council

finds that this board can assist it in meeting its objective of achieving greater public accountability through the City Council's audit functions and responsibilities by acting in an advisory, oversight, and liaison capacity between and among the Council, City Manager, and CPA firms retained by the city to conduct audits.

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

C-3 Resolution U-11347– Award contracts and approve purchases:

1. Award contract to Brown and Caldwell for owner's advisor professional services in support of the Tacoma Water Pipeline One Pressurization Program (\$671,735, plus applicable taxes) [Ali Polda, Principal Engineer];
2. Increase contract to General Mechanical, Inc., for upgrades to the locomotive servicing facility (\$600,000, plus applicable taxes. Cumulative total \$4,473,766, plus applicable taxes) [Kyle Kellem, Roadmaster].
3. Increase and extend contract to eSource Companies LLC (formerly Excergy Corporation) for consulting services to support Advanced Meter Program operational leadership (\$650,000, plus applicable taxes. Cumulative total \$1,583.282, plus applicable taxes. Extension request to December 31, 2024) [Corey Bedient, Sr. Project Mgr and Curtis Sneddon, IT Project Mgr];
4. Increase and extend contract to eSource Companies LLC (formerly Excergy Corporation) for consulting services to support the customer engagement portal project management, engineering, development, deployment, and testing (\$150,000, plus applicable taxes. Cumulative total \$1,557,014, plus applicable taxes. Extension request to December 31, 2024) [Corey Bedient, Sr. Project Mgr and Curtis Sneddon, IT Project Mgr].

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Cohen.

In response to a Board summary request on item number one, Ali Polda, Principal Engineer reported that Tacoma Water solicited a statement of qualifications to various firms. Two firms were interviewed and Brown and Caldwell selected. The core team submitted for this scope is also the core team involved in numerous pipeline projects in Oregon and have experienced engineers that have worked on pipelines similar to Pipeline No. One. This firm is familiar with testing and rehabilitation of these types of pipes.

In response to a Board inquiry about costs associated with the cleanup of contamination on item number two, Kyle Kellem, Road Master, responded there was known non-hazardous contamination from elevated petroleum hydrocarbons. During the engineering process, staff underestimated the quantity, which brought the costs higher.

In response to a Board inquiry about item number five and the number of amendments, Corey Bedient, Sr. Project Mgr, explained that the five amendments were not planned and how the schedule has changed. This vendor does more than consulting, they also provide embedded staff and that has changed the scope of their amendment.

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

C-4 Resolution U-11348 – Authorize execution of a collective bargaining agreement as negotiated with the Tacoma Joint Labor Committee, effective January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024 [Dylan Carlson Sr. Labor Relations Mgr].

Mr. O’Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Cohen.

Dylan Carlson, Sr. Labor Relations Mgr, summarized the resolution. The City of Tacoma and the Tacoma Joint Labor Committee have negotiated a proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement effective January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2024. The proposed agreement provides for the continuation of employee health and welfare benefits for the term of the two-year agreement. Mr. O’Loughlin added clarification that the funds associated with the health care benefits aren’t new, they’ve been in place.

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

C-5 Resolution U-11349 – Authorize execution of a collective bargaining agreement and letter of agreement as negotiated with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 483, Supervisors’ Unit; the collective bargaining agreement is effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025.

Mr. O’Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Cohen.

Dylan Carlson, Sr. Labor Relations Mgr, summarized the resolution. The City of Tacoma and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 483, Supervisors’ Unit, have negotiated a proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA), retroactive from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2025, and a Letter of Agreement (LOA) that includes the IBEW, Local 483, Customer and Field Services Unit. The four-year CBA covers approximately 14 budgeted, full-time equivalent positions, with 6 positions located within Tacoma Public Utilities. In each year of the CBA and LOA, retroactive to January 1, 2022, a general wage increase of 2.25 percent will be provided to all classifications. The CBA also provides, retroactive to January 1, 2022, the following market-based adjustments: Fire Electrical Maintenance Supervisor and Traffic Field Operations Supervisor – one percent; Solid Waste Collection Supervisor – 1.75 percent; Bio-solids Supervisor – two percent; Warehouse Supervisor – five percent; and Customer Accounts Supervisor – four percent. Effective January 1, 2023, a general wage increase of 2.50 percent will be provided to all classifications, and a market-based adjustment of one percent for Fire Electrical Maintenance Supervisor and Traffic Field Operations Supervisor. Effective January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025, a general wage increase of 2.75 percent will be provided. Other changes in the CBA include: the addition of language regarding wage adjustments that may be needed to avoid salary compression for Bio-solids Supervisor and Solid Waste Collection Supervisor, and the classifications they supervise, and the incorporation of the Juneteenth holiday into the agreement. The LOA provides for the transfer of the representation of the classification of Warehouse Supervisor from the IBEW, Local 483, Customer Field Services Unit, into the IBEW, Local 483, Supervisors’ Unit.

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

## **D. Reports of the Director**

### Strategic Directive Eleven (SD11 Decarbonization) Update

Clay Norris, Power Manager, made opening remarks. Clark Mather, Government and Community Relations Manager, outlined 2022 decarbonization rules to be established in January of 2023 in the legislature. An overview of federal legislation passed (2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and 2022 Inflation Reduction Act) was provided. Lisa Rennie, Sr. Power Analyst, then provided an overview of the 2030 Climate Action Plan that was adopted in November 2021. TPU is responsible for leading 36 actions and there is \$1.5M in new state funding and \$1M in new federal funds secured for energy research and development projects. Dan McCabe, Rail CIO/CFO, summarized rail electrification and battery electric locomotives. Staff is awaiting official award announcement for battery electric locomotives and working with Power for design and layout options for charging stations. Tacoma Rail is positioning to be the first short line railroad in the Northwest to have battery electric locomotives. Cam LeHouillier, Asst. Power Section Mgr, summarized transportation electrification and the new projects launched (home EV charging pilot and smart water heater controller pilot). Mr. LeHouillier provided an overview of charging stations and the refunded EV charging programs that have no decrease in customer incentives or eligibility and will extend outside the City limits. Mr. LeHouillier concluded by summarizing future efforts and communication efforts and activities about home charging rebate promotions and all of TPU's decarbonization efforts and milestones.

## **E. Comments by Board**

Board Member O'Loughlin and Board Member Cohen indicated that they will meet as requested with Sparks Northwest after staff has checked details in the correspondence.

## **F. Adjournment**

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m. until Wednesday, October 26, 2022 for a study session at 3:00 p.m. followed by a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



Holland Cohen, Secretary