



APPROVED 3/23/22

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
March 9, 2022
6:30 p.m.

Chair Patterson called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mark Patterson, Chrissy Cooley, Carlos Watson, Holland Cohen, John O'Loughlin

The meeting was quorate.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

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

Comments by the Public

There were no comments by the public.

Regular Agenda

Resolution U-11309– Award contracts and approve purchases:

1. Award three-year contract to American Wire Group, Inc., for the purchase of bare and covered aluminum overhead conductors on an as-needed basis (\$912,230.30, plus applicable taxes; option to renew for two one-year periods for a projected total of \$1,548,024.41) [Joe Parris, T&D Contract Program Manager];
2. Award three-year contract to General Pacific, Inc., for the purchase of light-emitting-diode (LED) luminaires and accessories (\$407,989.50, plus applicable taxes; option to renew for two one-year periods for a projected amount of \$688,196.69) [Joe Parris, T&D Contract Program Manager];

Ms. Cooley moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Watson.

In response to a Board request on item number one, Joe Parris, T&D Contract Program Manager, summarized the requested action. The contract is for the supply of bare and covered aluminum overhead conductors to be managed as inventory material by the Power warehouse. Projected usage includes construction and maintenance of Tacoma Power's overhead transmission and distribution system. Aluminum overhead conductor is used in the replacement of aging assets required for system reliability improvements and service territory maintenance activities including conductor relocations due to roadway improvements.

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

C-2 Motion 22-04 – That the 2022 Work Plan for the Director of Utilities as submitted and on file with the Clerk of the Board for the Public Utility Board meeting of March 9, 2022, is accepted and approved.

Ms. Cooley moved to approve the motion; seconded by Mr. Watson.

Director Flowers shared that top priorities in the 2022 work plan are to support customers in account recovery, supporting staff to the future work state, and budget/rates work.

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

C-3 Motion 22-05 – That in accordance with Article IV Section 4.18 of the Tacoma City Charter, the Board has completed an annual performance review of Jackie Flowers, Director of Utilities, and approves the annual performance review of the Director, as on file with the Clerk of the Board.

Ms. Cooley moved to approve the motion; seconded by Mr. Watson.

Board Member O’Loughlin remarked that the evaluation under consideration covers a period of performance before being appointed to the Board, so will abstain on this motion.

Board Member Cooley made positive remarks about Director Flowers’ performance, especially in such complex and historical times. Chair Patterson remarked that there were extensive conversations in executive session and this is the final consideration. Chair Patterson shared that the evaluation was very favorable and called out the Director’s excellent coordination with General Government on the response to the pandemic.

Voice vote was taken and carried, with one abstention by Mr. O’Loughlin. The motion was approved.

D. Reports of the Director

Covid

Director Flowers reported that staff is working on the final alignment of directives on masking, occupancy, and distancing and are making plans to transition out of mandatory telework and future work processes. There is no final workplace reconstitution schedule yet; this work is being done with the City Manager. Mandatory telework is in effect through March 31.

Director Flowers then provided a summary of communications sent out on disconnections. Items provided to residential customers with any past due balances include a disconnect letter, online assessment form, paper assessment form, residential email reminder, installment letter, and other canvassing materials. Director Flowers then reviewed the communications sent to residential customers regardless of arrearages. Communications provided to business customers include a disconnect letter, email

reminder, and installment letter, and phone calls from account executives. Communications sent to business customers regardless of arrearages were then summarized. Other communication efforts such as television media, website messaging, email/newsletter messaging, direct mail, bill package messaging, TV Tacoma messaging, organic social media, messaging, and paid social media messaging were summarized.

Update on Strategic Directive Seven (SD7, Reliability and Resiliency)

Courtney Rose, Emergency Manager, led the discussion with support from Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) from the operating divisions: Jayson Lelli (Power); Michael Washington (Water); and Kyle Kellem (Rail). Ms. Rose and the SMEs from each operating division summarized the progress-to-date for each of the measurements in SD7. Priorities for 2022 include: hiring additional emergency manager; emergency preparedness for employees and customers; finalize Continuity of Operations Plan; incident command training; Cascadia Rising 2022 exercise; continued support to pandemic response and recovery; situational awareness platform; fuel planning; and satellite phones. Board Members made positive remarks about the work done during the pandemic.

E. Comments by the Board

Board Member Cooley reported on the American Public Power Association (APPA) legislative rally and activities of the Policy Makers' Council (PMC), on which she serves. The PMC set the legislative resolution for the next year; all are on the APPA website. There were good informational sessions and opportunities to meet with the delegation. Ms. Cooley introduced some extra topics on behalf of TPU, including the Howard Hansen Dam fish passage project; bonding/financing opportunities for public power; and green hydrogen.

F. Executive Session

Board Member Cooley moved to enter into an executive session at 7:55 p.m. not to exceed 45 minutes, to discuss the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g); seconded by Board Member Watson. Voice vote taken and carried.

Chair Patterson announced that there would be no further business after the executive session and moved that after the conclusion of the executive session, the Clerk of the Board is authorized to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ms. Cooley. Voice vote taken and carried. The executive session concluded at 8:15 p.m.

G. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. until March 23, 2022 for a study session at 3:00 p.m. followed by a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:



Mark Patterson, Chair



Carlos Watson, Secretary