



APPROVED 10-11-23

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
September 27, 2023
3:00 p.m.

Chair Watson called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. in the third-floor conference room (LT1) of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Carlos Watson, William Bridges, Elly Claus-McGahan, John O’Loughlin, Anita Gallagher

Automated Distribution Mgt System (ADMS)

This presentation was given by John Nierenberg, Assistant T&D Manager, and Tony Landrith, UTS Division Manager. The changing environment and existing investments leading to grid modernization were outlined. Existing investments include the modern energy management systems, AMI, GIS modernization, Energy Imbalance Market, and data analytics. Next steps include distribution automation, GIS modernization, and a modernized distribution advanced management system (including outage management). The advanced outage management system will provide greater scalability, deeper AMI integration, and enhanced failure tracking. Benefits to customers include near real-time outage information, reduced outage durations, and improved power quality. Tangible cost benefits include outage management system hardening, benefits of a modern logging and switching tool with workflow features, advanced distribution SCADA alarms, distribution state estimation, and fault location isolation and system restoration capabilities.

Housing Development Strategies, Density Initiatives, and Utility Policies

LaTasha Wortham, Regional Relations Manager, provided an overview of the Affordable Housing Action Strategy (AHAS), its goals, and strategy. The AHAS is the City’s response to a changing housing market, increased displacement pressures, and a need for high-quality affordable housing. TPU focuses on the following: aligning with city policy and state law; reviewing construction/inspection pricing; reviewing policies for both customer and TPU; Accessory dwelling units initiatives; engagement with Home in Tacoma, and the city’s permit advisory task force. Chad Edinger, Asst Power Section Mgr, then provided an overview of Power’s relative policies. Ryan Cox, Asst. Water Division Mgr, then outlined Water’s relative policies. Mr. Cox then shared different

scenarios that would affect customers when building accessory dwelling units. Ms. Wortham then summarized TPU's anti-displacement strategies, which include: Covid relief funding, BCAP and other discount programs. Messrs. Cox and Edinger conclude the presentation by providing a summary of the Home in Tacoma program.

Budget/Rates Workshop Agenda Review

The Board reviewed the draft agenda for the budget and rates workshop scheduled for October 13, 2023. There were no edits by the Board.

Guiding Principle One (GP1, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Belonging) Review

The Board reviewed the final draft version of GP1. The final resolution for this GP will be brought forth for Board consideration at the first meeting in October.

Guiding Principle Seven (GP7, Reliability and Resiliency) Review

The Board reviewed the final draft version of GP7. The final resolution for this GP will be brought forth for Board consideration at the first meeting in October.

General Board Comments/Discussion and Director's Reports

There were no general comments by the Board or Director.

Executive Session

Chair Watson moved to enter into an executive session at 5:20 p.m. to discuss potential/pending litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for up to 45 minutes; seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin. Voice vote taken and carried; the motion was approved. Chair Watson announced that after the conclusion of the executive session, the Board would not take any further action and the study session would be adjourned. Chair Watson moved that at the conclusion of the executive session, the Clerk of the Board is authorized to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin. Voice vote taken and carried; the motion was approved. The executive session was adjourned at 5:39 p.m. Engel Lee was legal counsel present during the executive session.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



William Bridges