



City of Tacoma

City Council Study Session Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 848 0943 8889

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/84809438889

July 21, 2020

12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:08 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 3 - Beale, Blocker and McCarthy

Public Utility Board Members:

Present: 4 - Flint, Larkin, Patterson, and Watson

Absent: 1 - Cooley

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived at 12:10 p.m.

Public Utility Board Member Cooley arrived at 12:17 p.m.

All Council Members and Public Utility Board Members participated virtually.

Joint City Council/Public Utility Board Briefing Items

1. [20-0455](#) Advanced Electric and Water Meters: Program and Policies Update

At approximately 12:09 p.m., Mayor Woodards called on Jackie Flowers, Director, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU).

Deputy Mayor Blocker arrived here, at 12:10 p.m.

Ms. Flowers presented an update on the program and policies of the Advanced Electric and Water Meters, including agenda; advanced metering infrastructure (AMI); and advanced meters, noting a customer benefits timeline and strategic program.

Public Utility Board Member Cooley arrived here, at 12:17 p.m.

Matt Hubbard, Power Engineer, TPU, presented customer communications, noting a draft deployment customer communications plan, upcoming target dates, and policies in progress; advanced meter customer side repairs, noting program objectives, the number of side repairs, proposed ways to assist customers, and an infrastructure data analysis; the advanced meter opt-out policy, noting benefits of advanced metering, electric opt-out options, the radio off meter, opt-out fee with proposed fees and examples, and a water opt-out option; and the TPU pre-pay program, noting program history, pre-pay benefits, and timing.

Discussion ensued regarding ways customers can monitor their usage, infrastructure in older homes, helping customers determine repairs and upgrades needed for their homes, poverty level considerations, and possible changes to the programs.

2. [20-0456](#) Affordability/Low-income Program Recommendations

At approximately 1:00 p.m., Mayor Woodards made opening remarks and called on Ms. Flowers, who introduced Francine Artis, Customer Services Assistant Manager, TPU. Ms. Artis introduced Christina Leinneweber, Senior Utilities Economist, and Lyna Vo, Utilities Economist, TPU, and together they presented the affordability/low-income program recommendations, including current programs, noting the Discount Rate Program, the Bill Assistance Plan, and the Emergency Assistance Program; program design by utility; current program participant demographics; assistance by equity index; income and household size; poverty thresholds; recommendations and recommendations by utility; financial impact by utility; and next steps.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding median income for Tacoma, metrics for eligibility, organizing median income data by household makeup and age, the Emergency Assistance Program, and customer outreach.

The joint study session adjourned, and the regular study session convened at 1:45 p.m.

City Council Other Items of Interest

3. [20-0458](#) The Obama Foundation Mayor's Pledge

Mayor Woodards stated that the Obama Foundation put out a Mayor's Pledge to ask cities across the nation to review police use of force policies, engage

communities, report findings of the review to the community and seek feedback, and reform the use of force policies. She further stated that the goals of the Pledge are in line with the City's goals for reform and that she would be signing the Pledge.

4. [20-0459](#) Community Commitment for Safe Youth

Mayor Woodards stated that Graduate Tacoma launched the Community Commitment for Safe Youth, calling on individuals and organizations across the City to commit to making Tacoma more safe and welcoming for youth through four principles, including create and nurture welcoming environments, listen and engage with youth, check emotions and biases against Black and brown youth, and give grace for the unknown.

MOTION: Council Member Hunter moved to have the City Council sign the Community Commitment for Safe Youth.

SECONDED BY: Deputy Mayor Blocker.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Beale and McCarthy

5. [20-0460](#) Community Forum Updates

Mayor Woodards stated that the City Council reopened Community Forum at last week's Council meeting and will continue to hear Community Forum virtually for the foreseeable future. She further stated that the Council may choose to suspend the rules to allow speakers to speak on items on the agenda and combine Public Comment and Community Forum.

Discussion ensued regarding timing of Public Comment versus Community Forum, managing expectations, new participants, and public education.

6. [20-0467](#) Northwest Ice Processing Center Resolution Draft

Mayor Woodards and Council Member Walker presented an update on a draft resolution regarding the Northwest Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Processing Center, including suggested edits from the Commission for Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and La Resistencia.

Discussion ensued regarding the language changes and managing expectations regarding the City Council’s authority.

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Deputy Mayor Blocker stated that he will be bringing forward a resolution to change the name of the Citizen's Police Advisory Committee to Community Police Advisory Committee.

Discussion ensued regarding word choice for the name.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

- 7. [20-0457](#) Weekly Report to the City Council, July 16, 2020

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated there are no ceremonials on tonight's agenda and no expected changes.

Executive Session - Pending Litigation

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) to discuss pending litigation, not to exceed 20 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Beale and McCarthy

Closed Session - Labor Negotiations

MOTION: Deputy Mayor Blocker moved to convene to Closed Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(a and b) to discuss labor negotiations, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

Ayes: 7 - Blocker, Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Absent: 2 - Beale and McCarthy

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:29 p.m.
City Attorney Bill Fosbre was present.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened at 2:52 p.m.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

The Closed Session was held after adjournment of the study session.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

Doris Sorum, City Clerk