TACOMA POWER TACOMA WATER TACOMA RAIL
TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES

APPROVED 2/25/25

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
February 11, 2026
3:00 p.m.

Chair O'Loughlin 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: John O'Loughlin; Elly Claus-McGahan; Anita Gallagher; Devin Hampton
Excused: William Bridges

System Development Charges

Keri Burchard-Juarez, Water Superintendent, described System Development Charges (SDC) as one-time fees for new or upsized meters to cover the cost of system upgrades or expansion; they were last updated in 2019. The City Council has expressed issue with the impact on Home in Tacoma densification efforts, impact on affordable housing, and combined impact with new drainage and wastewater SDCs and traffic impact fees. Superintendent Burchard-Juarez then summarized how those concerns are being addressed. Staff provided additional information about minimal impact on infill/increased density projects as most projects use existing meters which are not subject to SDCs. Staff is proposing to waive SDCs for affordable housing and offset waivers with CHIP funds. Water will work with ES and CED to minimize the administrative burden on affordable housing providers. Waivers require code updates and there is ongoing coordination with ES, CED, Permitting, and Legal. Staff will bring the SDC waiver proposal to the Board and Council by the end of 2026.

Tacoma Power: Customer Service Policies

Chad Edinger, Asst. Power Section Mgr, shared that the customer service policy fee updates will be coming to the Board for consideration at a future meeting. Mr. Edinger reviewed the fee calculation, which shifts from historical analysis to estimated calculation. Staff will also revisit the historical analysis after deployment of the new mobile platform for field staff. Fees for work rarely done have been removed in favor of using engineering estimates. Mr. Edinger reviewed graphs illustrating all new service fee proposals. The presentation concluded with a cost comparison with neighboring Seattle City Light.

Grant Approval Process
Engel Lee, Chief Deputy City Attorney, reviewed options the Board can take to adhere to Council Resolution 41805 related to grant funding and the creation of a centralized grant tracking system. The Board requested to see a list of grants at the frequency decided by the Director and stated they trust the Director's judgment on when to bring something forward that warrants the Board's attention outside of the established reporting cadence.

Board Rules
The Board Clerk highlighted Rule 2; Section 6 of the Board Rules of Order that diverges from Roberts Rules in that a unanimous vote is required when there is a minimum quorum of three present. Robert's Rules states that the majority of a quorum carries a vote. The Board Members agree that this does not to be considered separate from the full review of the Board Rules of Order and Board/Director Linkages that will be conducted later in the year.

Board/Director Comments/Updates
Board Member Claus-McGahan expressed interest in how GG and TPU technology groups work together.

Chair O'Loughlin summarized the gross earnings tax changes that will be considered by the Council via Ordinance 29092.

Executive Session
At 4:25 p.m. Chair O'Loughlin moved to enter into an executive session for 70 minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee [RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)]; seconded by Board Member Claus-McGahan. Voice vote taken and carried.

Chair O'Loughlin announced that the Board would conduct no business after the executive session and moved that at the conclusion of the executive session, the Clerk of the Board is authorized to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Claus-McGahan. Voice vote taken and carried.

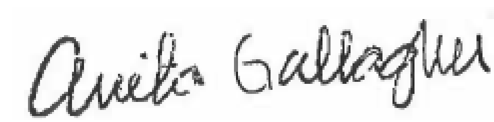
At 5:35 p.m., the executive session was extended by 25 minutes.

Engel Lee, Chief Deputy City Attorney, was present. The executive session was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Approved:



John O'Loughlin, Chair

Anita Gallagher, Secretary