City of Tacoma
City Council Study Session Minutes

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Council Chambers
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192
Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Passcode: 896569
May 17, 2022
12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Mayor Woodards called the joint study session to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Bushnell, Daniels, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Walker and Mayor Woodards
Absent: 3 - Blocker, Hines and Ushka

Public Utility Board Members:
Present: 4 - Cohen, Cooley, O'Loughlin, and Patterson
Absent: 1 - Watson

Deputy Mayor Ushka arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Council Member Hines arrived at 12:04 p.m.

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Deputy Mayor Ushka arrived here, at 12:01 p.m.

Joint City Council / Tacoma Public Utility Board Briefing Item

1. **22-0561** State and Federal Legislative Updates

At approximately 12:02 p.m., Mayor Woodards provided opening remarks on state and federal legislative updates, noting that the federal legislative updates for General Government (GG) departments will be presented at a later date; and introduced Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU). Mather introduced the City's government relations team, including Rosa McLeod, Government Relations Analyst, City Manager's Office; Briahna Murray, Vice President, Gordon Thomas Honeywell; and Logan Bahr, State Relations Manager, TPU; and presented the agenda for the state legislative updates.

Council Member Hines arrived here, at 12:04 p.m.

Murray further presented the 2022 Washington State legislative session overview; the 2022 state priorities for GG departments, noting the City's legislative agenda, collaboration with community partners, the City's support/oppose/monitor list, police transformation, transportation improvements, automated speed enforcement, affordable housing and homelessness, and transfers to the Northwest Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Processing Center; summarized highlights from the City's support/oppose/monitor list; and expressed appreciation for the strong coordination between GG and TPU staff.

Bahr then presented the 2022 state priorities for TPU, including Tacoma Power, noting accelerated green hydrogen production and targeted electrification; Tacoma Water, noting the Public Works Trust Fund; Tacoma Rail, noting infrastructure funding and potential investments under the Move Ahead Washington transportation funding package; TPU-wide priorities, noting customer arrearage support; other notable issues, noting hydropower license fees, reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings, community solar expansion, and Move Ahead Washington; and looking ahead.

Mather then presented the 2022 federal priorities for TPU, including Tacoma Water, noting funding for fish passage and language in the Water Resources Development Act regarding Howard Hanson Dam; Tacoma Rail, noting a request for a battery-electric locomotive; Tacoma Power, noting funding for the multi-family and public electric vehicle charging program, a study on lower Snake River dams, and a coalition for federal hydrogen hub funding; TPU-wide, noting tracking of bipartisan infrastructure legislation funding opportunities; a calendar of future presentations and Public Utility Board (PUB) and City Council actions; and staff contact information.

Discussion ensued regarding appreciation for staff coordination and success in moving the City’s legislative priorities forward; state land use regulations, noting the Home in Tacoma Project, coordination with the Association of Washington Cities, and the importance of local control; decarbonization; green hydrogen and renewable fuels; electric vehicle charging stations; targeted electrification, noting fuel switching, building codes, and incentives; traffic cameras, noting possible locations, maximum numbers, and safety improvement grants through the Cooper Jones active transportation safety account; environmental leadership on Tacoma Power and Tacoma Rail projects; transportation funding and the Transportation Benefit District; funding for permanent housing; vehicular pursuit regulations; options for

in-person and remote testimony at future state and federal hearings; and encouraging community engagement.

Together, Jackie Flowers, Director, Francine Artis, Interim Customer Services Manager, and John Hoffman, Assistant Customer Services Manager, TPU, presented updates on TPU's account recovery efforts, including an agenda; customer outreach; assessment progress; the current state of disconnections and reconnections; the next focus area on high balance customers; accounts with balances, noting balances from before, during, and after the moratorium period, and peak amounts; and the need for future discussion about accounts that were closed during the moratorium.

Discussion continued regarding dunning, appreciation for staff, the mix of commercial and residential account balances, large residential balances, whether there are concentrated areas in the City with higher turnover and more closed accounts, and support available to customers.

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Mayor Woodards expressed appreciation for PUB Chair Patterson, noting his ten years of service on the Board, the many major issues and changes that occurred over those years, and the complexity of the volunteer role.

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The joint study session concluded at 1:37 p.m.

The regular study session convened at 1:49 p.m.

Other Items of Interest

2. **22-0564** Proclamation of Emergency Rule No. 6

Mayor Woodards presented the proposed Proclamation of Emergency Rule No. 6, including background, noting recent changes to Governor Jay Inslee's emergency proclamations and to the Washington State Open Public Meetings Act; that City Council standing committees will begin holding hybrid meetings in June 2022, with both in-person and virtual options for attendance; and that committees, boards, and commissions (CBCs) will continue to meet in virtual format only. She further reviewed the City's goals related to hybrid meetings, including reintroducing in-person meeting options for all CBCs in fall 2022; and providing hybrid meeting options for all public meetings in the future, noting that conference rooms need to be updated. She concluded by stating the proposed Proclamation of Emergency Rule No. 6 will come forward for action at next week's City Council meeting.

2a. 22-0790 Statement on recent acts of violence across the United States.

Mayor Woodards stated she plans to bring forward a statement on tonight's meeting agenda to express concern and heartfelt condolences to families who lost loved ones in the two mass shootings that occurred in the United States over the previous weekend, both of which targeted people of color.

Committee Reports

Council Member Walker stated that she will begin providing monthly reports from the Joint Municipal Action Committee (JMAC), noting that she and Council Member Daniels are members; and provided background about the Committee's purpose, goals, responsibilities, member organizations, and key topics for 2022. She reported that at the JMAC meeting on Friday, May 13, 2022, the Committee received a presentation on equitable access to affordable child care, and Tacoma Public Schools' Beyond the Bell program. She concluded by stating the next JMAC meeting will be held on Friday, June 10, 2022, and will include a presentation on the Tacoma Anchor Network and staff reports.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. 22-0562 Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, May 12, 2022

City Manager Elizabeth Pauli stated that there are two ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming May 15-21, 2022, as National Police Week, and proclaiming May 2022 as Building Safety Month; and that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee

MOTION: Council Member Walker moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(h) to review the qualifications of a public employee, not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member McCarthy.

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

Ayes: 7 - Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, McCarthy, Rumbaugh, Ushka and Walker

Absent: 2 - Blocker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:00 p.m.

The Executive Session was extended by 15 minutes at 3:02 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:19 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the study session was adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

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Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

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Doris Sorum, City Clerk