



City of Tacoma Government Performance and Finance Committee Minutes

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 827 5299 8740

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/82752998740 Passcode: 614650

April 20, 2021

10:00 AM

Chair John Hines, Vice Chair Lillian Hunter, Robert Thoms,
Kristina Walker, Keith Blocker (alternate), Mark Patterson (ex officio)

Call To Order

Chair Hines called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 3 - Hines, Hunter and Thoms

Absent: 1 - Walker

Ex Officio Member Bryan Flint was also in attendance.

Council Member Walker arrived at 10:03 a.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0369](#) Mental Health Tax
[Vicky McLaurin, Program Manager, Neighborhood and Community Services]

At approximately 10:02 a.m., Allyson Griffith, Assistant Director, Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), made opening remarks and introduced Vicky McLaurin, Community Services Manager, NCS.

Council Member Walker arrived here, at 10:03 a.m.

Ms. McLaurin presented the mental health tax update, including an overview; enabling legislation; the tax revenue and expenditures for 2017-2020 and the budget for 2021-2022; funded programs and budgeted amounts; 2020 program performance; program performance outcomes; and performance markers and compensation.

Discussion ensued regarding the number of people who attained permanent housing; funding for Black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) individuals and businesses; demographic data on who is served; how the City decides where the money is spent; City Council priorities and recommendations; working with other organizations; further explanation for where money goes; goals and percentages; cost reimbursement and how it affects service providers; the process for City Council review of mental health spending, and affordable housing.

2. [21-0391](#)

Open Access Transmission Tariff

[Marc Donaldson, Power Engineer; Christina Leinneweber, Senior Utilities Economist; Erin Erben, Rates and Financial Planning Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities]

At approximately 10:24 a.m., Christina Leinneweber, Senior Utilities Economist, presented the Open-Access Transmission Tariff (OATT) update, including a definition of OATT; the history of the current OATT; the current contract for co-generation to California; effect of OATT changes; effect on retail rates; what is changing, noting increased rates, language changes, and technical details; rate details; and next steps

Discussion ensued regarding current cost of transmission services compared with costs after the changes; Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) expenses; benefits to ratepayers; threshold of increasing utility rates; WestRock selling power then buying TPU's; the current energy market; Bonneville transmission agreements; and rate classes and what drives them.

MOTION: Chair Hunter moved to recommend Resolution No. 40771, relating to Tacoma Power's Open Access Transmission Tariff, to the full City Council for consideration.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Walker.

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

Ayes: 4 - Hines, Hunter, Thoms, Walker

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-0370](#)

May 4, 2021 - Power and Water Financial Plans Review

May 18, 2021 - Interviews for the Public Utility Board

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on May 4, 2021, and will include Power and Water Financial Plans Review;

and the May 18, 2021, meeting will include interviews for the Public Utility Board.

Other Items of Interest

Vice Chair Hunter stated that the Government Performance and Finance Committee appoints volunteers to the Planning Commission; requested an investigation into a complaint about a Planning Commissioner who posted negatively on social media about public comments on a Planning Commission proposal; and noted the importance of accountability and setting clear expectations.

Council Member Thoms spoke in support of the investigation; stated that committee, board, and commission members represent Tacoma; noted the importance of public comment; and concluded by stating that change can cause division, but negative comments reflect negatively on the City as a whole.

Bryan Flint, Chair, Tacoma Public Utilities, made comments that because he is an Ex Officio member he will not participate in interviews for the Public Utility Board to respect the charter and delegation of authority.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Lillian Hunter, Chair

Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office