



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

May 18, 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 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Hines, Hunter, Thoms and Walker

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0499](#) Interviews for the Public Utility Board
[Doris Sorum, City Clerk]

At approximately 10:02 a.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, informed the Committee they will be interviewing two applicants for the Public Utility Board (PUB) and that Holland Cohen requested to reschedule due to an emergency. She concluded by stating that there is currently one position available on the board.

Discussion ensued regarding conducting the interviews for Elly Claus-McGahan and Shawna Grambo today, but rescheduling Holland Cohen's interview to the June 1, 2021, meeting; how the Committee has accommodated past applicants that needed to reschedule, and the limited number of applicants. Chair Hines confirmed Holland Cohen's interview will be rescheduled to June 1, 2021.

The Committee interviewed Elly Claus-McGahan and Shawna Grambo.

Chair Hines informed both applicants that a recommendation to the City Council will not be made today, due to the rescheduling of one interview.

2. [21-0500](#) Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association
[Kari Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager, Human Resources;
Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance]

At approximately 10:27 a.m., Kari Louie, Senior Compensation and Benefits Manager, Human Resources, to give a presentation on the Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA), including a survey to gauge non-represented employees' interest in unused personal time off (PTO) accruals being paid into a VEBA plan upon retirement; what a VEBA is and how it can be used; that funds go in pre-taxed and are not taxed if used on qualified health care expenses in retirement; and that most City of Tacoma employees use PTO and cannot currently utilize a VEBA.

Discussion ensued regarding if the survey has a way to gauge employee understanding of what a VEBA is; whether the policy decision is made by the City Council or administratively; and clarification about which current employee classifications already have access to a VEBA.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [21-0501](#) June 1, 2021 - Environmental Services Commission; Tacoma Creates Update
June 15, 2021 - TPU Bond Issuance; City Facilities and Deferred Maintenance;
Internship Program

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated the next meeting will be on June 1, 2021, and will include the final interview for the PUB, the Environmental Services Commission briefing, and an update on Tacoma Creates Advisory Board related to the one-tenth of one percent sales tax expenditures. He reminded Council Members that both study session and the City Council meeting that day are canceled and if Council members cannot attend, to notify him so a quorum can be maintained. He concluded by stating that the June 15, 2021, meeting will include updates on the Tacoma Public Utilities bond issuance, City facilities and deferred maintenance, and the internship program.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

John Hines, Chair

Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office