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
April 18, 2023
12:00 PM

JOINT MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC UTILITY BOARD

Call to Order

Council Member Hines called the joint study session to order at 12:04 p.m.

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MOTION: Council Member Daniels moved to appoint Council Member Hines to serve as Presiding Officer of the City Council.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Rumbaugh.

Public comment was taken.

No individuals addressed the City council.

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

Ayes: 5 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines and Rumbaugh
Absent: 4 - Blocker, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines and Rumbaugh
Absent: 4 - Blocker, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

Public Utility Board Members:
Present: 4 - Bridges, Claus-McGahan, O'Loughlin, and Watson
Absent: 1 - Cohen

Joint City Council / Public Utility Board Briefing Item

1. **23-0379** Annual Climate Action Progress Report Update

At approximately 12:06 p.m., Jim Parvey, Environmental Policy and Sustainability Division Manager, Environmental Services (ES), provided opening remarks on the progress report for the City's Climate Action Plan (CAP); introduced Kristi Lynett, Sustainability Officer, Office of Environmental Policy and Sustainability, and LaTasha Wortham, Senior Government Affairs Advisor, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU); and presented background on the CAP, noting greenhouse gas emissions, and the City's net-zero goal by 2050. Lynett reviewed the 2030 climate milestones and provided an overview of the CAP, noting that it was adopted in November 2021 and includes actions and target indicators. Together, Lynett and Wortham presented the 2030 indicators and related jump start actions related to the CAP themes of togetherness, living, breathing, resource use, opportunities, and preparedness. They concluded by reviewing ways the City is leading by example, noting reducing fleet, building, and infrastructure emissions, and engaging employees in sustainability; opportunities for local solutions, noting state and federal leadership and grants; next steps, noting the high tide event in December 2022; and invited everyone to the South Sound Sustainability Expo on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

Discussion ensued regarding heat islands, noting interventions and correlation with low-opportunity areas on the City's Equity Index; retrofitting buildings, noting targets, costs, and funding sources; electric bicycle incentives; greenhouse gas emissions from power utilities; food waste regulations and programming; electric vehicles, noting car share programs, charging stations, and incentives; home energy conversions and support; carbon credits; bicycle infrastructure; tree planting; barriers to construction firms; and data, noting sources used, and frequency of new studies.

City Council / Public Utility Board Joint Executive Session - Potential Litigation

MOTION: Council Member Daniels moved to convene to a Joint Executive Session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(i) and RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)(ii) to discuss potential litigation, not to exceed 30 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Rumbaugh.

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

Ayes: 5 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines and Rumbaugh
Absent: 4 - Blocker, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council and Public Utility Board convened to a Joint Executive Session at 1:17 p.m. City Attorney Bill Fosbre; Chris Bacha, and Engel Lee, Chief Deputy City Attorneys, City Attorney's Office, were present.

The Joint Executive Session was extended by 20 minutes at 1:45 p.m., and by 15 minutes at 2:03 p.m.

The Joint Executive Session concluded, the joint study session adjourned, and the regular study session convened, at 2:21 p.m.

Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee

MOTION: Council Member Daniels moved to convene to an Executive Session pursuant to RCW 110(1)(g) to review the qualifications of a public employee, not to exceed 60 minutes.

SECONDED BY: Council Member Rumbaugh.

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

Ayes: 5 - Bushnell, Daniels, Diaz, Hines and Rumbaugh
Absent: 4 - Blocker, Ushka, Walker and Mayor Woodards

The City Council convened to Executive Session at 2:23 p.m.

The Executive Session concluded, and the study session reconvened, at 3:23 p.m.

City Council Briefing Item

2. **23-0380** Emergency Medical Services Levy Lid Lift

At approximately 3:23 p.m., Tory Green, Chief, Tacoma Fire Department (TFD), provided opening remarks and introduced Teresa Green, Business Services Senior Manager, TFD. Green presented the Emergency

Medical Services (EMS) levy lid lift, including background, noting erosion of existing levy rates; the upcoming timeline for proposition to be on the Tuesday, August 1, 2023, Primary Election ballot; the proposed ballot title, noting the purpose and how the percentage and term were selected; a comparison of levy rates per $1,000 of assessed value under the proposed levy lid lift and the existing rate; revenue available through existing and proposed EMS levy collection rates; outreach; and recommendations.

Discussion ensued regarding outreach, noting methods and political campaign restrictions; tax exemptions, noting criteria and how people know they qualify; impacts on possible future levies; history of the previous EMS levy, noting increased call volumes over time; and tax-funded services.

Other Items of Interest

There were no other items of interest.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports given.

Agenda Review and City Manager's Weekly Report

3. **23-0382** Weekly Report to the Mayor and City Council, April 13, 2023

Acting City Manager Kurtis Kingsolver stated there are three ceremonials on tonight's meeting agenda, proclaiming Friday, April 21, 2023, as Tacoma Dome Day; proclaiming Wednesday, April 26, 2023, as Domestic Violence Awareness Day; and a Compassionate Tacoma recognition for The Conversation 253. He concluded by stating that no changes are expected to tonight's agenda.

Executive Session - Review the Qualifications of a Public Employee

This item was addressed earlier in the study session.

Adjournment

On proper motion, the study session was adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Victoria R. Woodards, Mayor

For

Doris Sorum, City Clerk