



City of Tacoma

Economic Development

Committee Minutes

747 Market Street Tacoma, WA 98402

Conference Room 248

October 29, 2019

10:00 AM

Chair Robert Thoms, Vice Chair Conor McCarthy, Lillian Hunter,
Catherine Ushka, Chris Beale (alternate)

Call To Order

Chair Thoms called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

Present: 4 - Hunter, McCarthy, Thoms and Ushka

Briefing Items

1. [19-1193](#) Green Economy Policy Recommendations
[Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager,
Community and Economic Development]

At approximately 10:09 a.m., Gloria Fletcher, Business Development Manager, Community and Economic Development, presented green economy policy recommendations, including the purpose of having a green economy policy; a review of previous presentations; an information summary; 2019 State legislative actions; and proposed strategies, noting recruitment activities, benchmarking, partnership efforts, and incorporating green economy into the 2021 update of the City's Environmental Action Plan.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding a green jobs definition; the Green Jobs Tax Credit incentive; getting metrics and data on manufacturing businesses that are investing in sustainability, impacts of switching to robotics, clean technology in recruitment activities, and what other companies are doing to support more sustainable efforts; inviting manufacturers to present their sustainability efforts to the Committee; gaining understanding and context of sustainability to better understand green jobs; incentives for investing in sustainability; timelines and updates on manufacturing groups; and industrial symbiosis.

2. [19-1194](#) Tacoma Public Utilities Economic Development Strategic Plan
[Michael Catsi, Economic Development Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities]

At approximately 10:50 a.m., Michael Catsi, Economic Development Manager, Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU), made opening remarks and presented the top 20 Tacoma Power and Tacoma Water customers by revenue in 2008 and 2018, current average usage comparison, average rates comparison, and Jacksonville Electric Association's rate comparison of electric rates across the United States. He reviewed the TPU Economic Development Strategic Plan including background; an overview; economic development from a utility perspective; utility-City alignment; utility and City efforts; TPU partners; equity and economic mobility; plan priorities, noting internal cohesiveness and external partnerships; and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding trading electricity on the open market, the uses of surplus electricity, impacts of revenue from surplus, strategies and budget for attraction and retention, internal collaboration, promoting teamwork and green behavior, and the rates that the top 20 customers are paying.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

3. [19-1196](#) November 12, 2019 - Tacoma Arts Commission Interviews

Chair Thoms stated the next meeting will be on November 12, 2019, and will include interviews for the Tacoma Arts Commission.

Public Comment

Public Comment was heard before Other Items of Interest.

Public Comment was heard from:

1. Mark Martinez, Pierce County Building Trades Council, speaking on green economy.

Other Items of Interest

Council Member Hunter requested information regarding permits and economic development activity in the City.

Discussion ensued regarding Council Members receiving monthly Planning and Development reports and the idea of having a website with economic development updates.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Thoms', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Thoms, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Crabtree', written over a horizontal line.

Mary Crabtree, City Clerk's Office