



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

June 15, 2021

10:00 AM

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

Call To Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 4 - Hines, Hunter, Thoms and Walker

Ex Officio Member Bryan Flint arrived at 10:32 a.m.

All Council Members participated virtually.

Briefing Items

1. [21-0587](#)

Tacoma Rail Briefing

[Dale King, Rail Superintendent, Tacoma Public Utilities]

At approximately 10:02 a.m., Dale King, Rail Superintendent, Tacoma Public Utilities, presented on Tacoma Rail, including how Tacoma Rail started, noting the 1914 Tacoma Municipal Street Railway, Tacoma Municipal Belt Line, and Dennis Dean, Rail Superintendent from 1979 to 2005; who built Tacoma Rail; who Tacoma Rail is today; that service is Tacoma Rail's strength; hierarchy; the vital rail connection; commercial traffic; intermodal traffic; the intermodal process; the track infrastructure in 1980 and 2021; carload volumes between 1948 and May 2021; building for the future, noting upgrades to the fleet, and the rebuilt mobile training facility; a tenuous future; the idea of a stupid tax, noting that freight and passenger trains don't mix, and criminal actions that endanger the entire industry; the Class I railroad network today; Tacoma Rail's current role; where Tacoma Rail would like to go; utilizing a systems approach; the long-term solution of traffic diversification; providing value-added services; how bad can it get, noting the losses from the dispute between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the Pacific Maritime Association, how crude oil saved jobs, and how changes in

international shipping alliances caused drops in business; alternative fuels are the future of Tacoma Rail; protecting the environment and franchise; and guiding principles.

Ex Officio Member Bryan Flint arrived here, at 10:32 a.m.

Discussion ensued throughout regarding whether Tacoma Rail operates certain machines in the Port of Tacoma, commercial versus intermodal distribution, trajectory of intermodal traffic, operating as a greater Tacoma terminal complex, Tacoma Rail locomotive upgrades, and the train simulator.

2. [21-0589](#)

Monthly Budget Update

[Hayley Falk, Management Analyst III, Finance]

At approximately 10:37 a.m., Hayley Falk, Management Analyst III, Finance, gave a monthly budget update, including an introduction, and tour of the new financial reporting website, noting the General Fund, General Fund revenues, General Fund expenses, and the other funds tab.

Discussion ensued regarding whether there are potential actions for the Committee or City Council, public access, losses in revenue, business taxes, trends, and General Fund modifications.

3. [21-0588](#)

Reserve Policy Overview

[Jackis Coulibaly, Management Analyst II, Finance]

At approximately 10:52 a.m., Andy Cherullo, Director, Finance, gave an introduction to the reserve policy, and introduced Jackis Coulibaly, Management Analyst II, Finance. Mr. Coulibaly provided an overview on reserve policy, including an agenda, current reserve policy, Government Finance Officers Association reserve policy best practices, and the reserve levels of comparable cities. Katie Johnston, Budget Officer, Finance, outlined reserve policy considerations versus the current policy, potential updates, and next steps.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for making the update; having clear numbers, tiers, and timelines for future policies; an economic stabilization project; use and replenishment of reserves; American Rescue Plan Act funding; use of reserves during the COVID-19 pandemic; Tacoma Public Utilities' reserve policy; and the City's cash flow.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings

4. [21-0590](#) July 6, 2021 - Canceled
 July 20, 2021 - Power Note Purchase Agreement; Monthly Budget Update

Ted Richardson, Committee Liaison, stated that the July 6, 2021, meeting is cancelled and that the next meeting will be on July 20, 2021, and will include a presentations on the Power Note Purchase Agreement and a monthly budget update.

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 11:27 a.m.



John Hines, Chair



Jered Lobban, City Clerk's Office