



APPROVED 10/9/24

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
September 25, 2024
6:30 p.m.

Acting Chair Bridges called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: William Bridges; Elly Claus-McGahan; Anita Gallagher

Excused: Carlos Watson, John O'Loughlin

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Ms. Claus-McGahan moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Ms. Gallagher. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared adopted.

Comments by the Public

There were no comments by the public.

Regular Agenda

C-1 Resolution U-11472 - A resolution to award certain contracts and approve certain purchases:

1. Award five-year contract to Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance to support Tacoma Power through market transformation savings (\$2,007,446, plus applicable taxes) [Brittany Broyles, Asst. Section Mgr];
2. Award contract to Absher Construction Co., for planning, validation, basis of design report, and schematic design of a new warehouse, shops facility, and associated supporting site development for Tacoma Water (\$790,819, plus applicable taxes. Plus a five-percent contingency for a project contract amount of \$830,360) [Carol Powers, Principal Engineer].

Ms. Claus-McGahan moved to approve the motion; seconded by Ms. Gallagher.

In response to a Board request for additional background on NEEA for item number one, Brittany Broyles, Asst. Section Mgr, shared that NEEA has been around since 1996 and takes utilities from Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and Washington and allows these utilities to pool resources to fund market transformation initiatives for conservation. NEEA also works with codes and standards; the code to make water heaters more efficient was coordinated by NEEA.

Board Member Claus-McGahan made positive remarks about item number two and the sustainability in construction practices by the vendor.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

C-2 Resolution U-11473 - Authorize extension of a project of limited duration for the Advanced Metering Infrastructure project to December 31, 2025

Ms. Claus-McGahan moved to approve the motion; seconded by Ms. Gallagher.

Corey Bedient, UTS Technology Manager, summarized the resolution. Staff requests approval to continue four positions and extend the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Project (project), as a special project of limited duration to December 31, 2025. This project was established by Resolutions U-11055, U-11148, and U-11341 that approved a total of 29 positions and included a project end date of December 31, 2024. On January 9, 2019, the Board adopted Resolution No. U-11055, establishing the project as a special project of limited duration. As a transformative initiative, the AMI program has and continues to require significant effort across TPU to implement the new processes, applications, technologies, and integrations needed to fully enable the functions and features of the AMI solution. To meet the anticipated needs of the AMI Project, 26 special project of limited duration positions were previously approved as part of Resolution No. U-11055, comprised of the transfer of 10 temporary positions to the special project of limited duration and the hiring of 16 new special project of limited duration employees. These project positions have a long-term benefit to TPU as at least 15 employees, initially hired for AMI project roles, have been hired into permanent roles across TPU. After a thorough assessment of the ongoing AMI mass meter deployment and the emerging requirements for network hardening and project closeout, TPU recommends extending the duration initially approved from December 31, 2024, to December 31, 2025; this extension is essential to meet the critical needs of network stabilization and to ensure a seamless project closeout.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

C-3 Motion 24-10 - That in accordance with Tacoma City Charter Article IV Section 4.21, the Public Utility Board confirms the Director of Utilities' selection of Alan Matheson as Superintendent of Tacoma Rail effective October 7, 2024. Mr. Matheson is also confirmed as the Acting Superintendent of Tacoma Rail until his Rail Superintendent appointment becomes effective.

Ms. Claus-McGahan moved to approve the motion; seconded by Ms. Gallagher.

Director Flowers shared that there was good interest and good candidates considered for the Rail Superintendent position. The Director summarized the many ways Mr. Matheson rose to the top of the candidate pool, specifically calling out his experience, commitment to customers, strategy work, work on national issues, and leadership. All Board Members present made positive remarks about the selection of Mr. Matheson, showed support, and wished him well. Mr. Matheson remarked on the honor to be confirmed by the Board.

Voice vote taken and carried. The motion was approved.

D. Board Comments

There were no final comments from the Board.

E. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. until Monday, September 30, 2024, for a special study session at 1:00 p.m.

Approved:



John O'Loughlin
Chair



Elly Claus-McGahan
Secretary