



APPROVED 7/10/24

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
June 26, 2024
3:00 p.m.

Chair Watson called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. in the third-floor conference room (LT1) of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Carlos Watson, Anita Gallagher, John O’Loughlin, William Bridges, Elly Claus-McGahan

Moss Adams Audit Exit Conference

Olga Darlington, Partner at Moss Adams, stated that there were no material weaknesses in internal controls and no compliance findings in this audit. Areas of emphasis for this audit were the internal control environment, treasury, capital assets, debt activity, revenues/expenses, and subscription-based information technology arrangements. No audit adjustments were identified. Ms. Darlington concluded by thanking staff because the audit progressed in an orderly fashion and on a timely basis.

Public Records Office Statistics

James Kauffman, Public Records Office (PRO) Manager, and Morgan Medley, Records Specialist, presented the information in the presentation. The PRO oversees the city’s compliance of the Public Records Act and provides records request services to all city departments. The set up and responsibilities of PRO staff were summarized. A Public Disclosure Request (PDR) is housed in RCW 42.56 and allows citizens to review government records. Public records include documents in all formats, whether electronic or paper, that relate to government operations or conduct. PDR activity is described as a request that is sent to the department(s) to look for responsive records. The process for responding to requests was detailed. Graphical representations of citywide PDR and TPD video public disclosure requests (broken down by divisions), activities, and year-to-year request comparisons were detailed.

Solar Power Update

Ray Johnson, Power Manager, Brittany Broyles, Customer Energy Solutions Manager, and Jing Liu, Rates and Forecasting Manager, provided the information in this presentation. Current solar economics (Tacoma vs. California) were detailed. Cost shifting, the mechanics of cost shifting, and ratepayer impacts were then detailed. Trending in rooftop solar installation was reviewed. Next the application of the equity

index for solar customers, the challenges for income-qualified customers, challenges for master-metered multi-family solar customers, and current alternatives were reviewed. Additional opportunities for solar and income-qualified customers in the coming year include setting up energy program equity scorecards, research into Evergreen Options resiliency hubs, creating small business programs, energy efficiency grants for shelters and non-profits, and mobility programs.

Policy Maker's Governance Series

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

General Board Comments/Discussion and Director's Reports

Board Member O'Loughlin made positive remarks about the governance sessions he attended while at the American Public Power Association (APPA) national conference.

Chair Watson made positive remarks about the community-based and AI sessions he attended at the APPA national conference.

Director Flowers reported that the Council is holding ballot discussions as part of Charter Review.

Director Flowers reported that per the Mayor's request, work is being done to amend the TMC for TPU Board compensation. Board Members Watson and Gallagher will work with staff on this topic.

Director Flowers reported that Board officer rotation will take place at the next regular Board meeting.

Director Flowers informed the Board that stakeholder engagement on the budget will be scheduled, and Board Members will be provided with non-quorum opportunities to attend.

Director Flowers reported that the gross earnings tax on grants resolution will be brought forward at the next meeting.

Interim Water Superintendent Pennington provided an update on the Cascade Water Alliance.

Board Member Gallagher made positive remarks about Interim Customer Service Manager, Francine Artis, presenting to the joint municipal action committee on BCAP and providing a call to action for community partners to promote this program.

Executive Session

At 5:30 p.m. Chair Watson moved to convene an executive session to discuss pending or potential litigation (RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) for up to 30 minutes; seconded by Mr.

O'Loughlin. Voice vote taken and carried. Chair Watson announced after the conclusion of the executive session, the Board would not take further action and the study session would be adjourned. Chair Watson moved that the Clerk of the Board is authorized to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. O'Loughlin. Voice vote taken and carried. Attorney present was Engel Lee, Chief Deputy City Attorney. The executive session was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



William Bridges