



APPROVED 2-24-16

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
February 10, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Mr. Flint called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Woodrow Jones, Mark Patterson, Bryan Flint, Karen Larkin, Monique Trudnowski

The meeting was quorate.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Mr. Patterson moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Ms. Trudnowski. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared adopted and made part of the record.

Recognitions

There were no recognitions.

Comments from the Public

Mr. Pete Almond of J&P Almond Development, LLC , made public comment to inquire about an increase of kWh usage at his business. John Hoffman, Customer Service Operations Manager, met with Mr. Almond to hear his concerns and arrange to have a meter technician conduct meter testing.

Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

Regular Agenda

D-1 Motion 16-03 – Amend the June 27, 2012 compensation agreement with the Director of Utilities to align with the City Council’s new reconfirmation authority.

Mr. Patterson moved to approve the motion; seconded by Mrs. Trudnowski.

Bill Fosbre, Chief Deputy Attorney, highlighted key points of the amended compensation agreement that aligns with the Council’s new reconfirmation authority in the city charter by clarifying the meaning of the phrase ‘terminated without cause’ and extending the term of the agreement from October 31, 2017 to December 31, 2017.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was approved.

D-2 Motion 16-04 – Pursuant to section 1.12.100.H of the Tacoma Municipal Code, approve section 2.E. of the proposed compensation agreement with the Power Superintendent authorizing payment of severance benefits in an amount equal to one year of salary in the event the Power Superintendent is terminated without cause.

Mr. Patterson moved to approve the motion; seconded by Mrs. Trudnowski.

Bill Fosbre, Chief Deputy City Attorney, summarized the motion. Discretion exists to authorize severance benefits for termination of the Power Superintendent without cause; however, the amount in the motion exceeds the Director's contract approval level, thus requiring Board approval. In response to a Board request for a definition of termination without cause, Mr. Fosbre stated that that there must be willful, continued, and evidenced failure to substantially performs one's duty.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was approved.

D-3 Motion 16-05 – Confirm the appointment of Terry Dillon to the Click! Engagement Committee as approved pursuant to City Council Resolution No. 39379.

Mr. Patterson moved to approve the motion; seconded by Mrs. Trudnowski.

Board Member Flint stated that the motion aligns with the Council's vote to create a Click! business plan and form an engagement committee. Mr. Dillon replaces an original engagement committee member who resigned due to time commitments.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was approved.

D-4 Resolution U-10846 – Authorize Tacoma Power to convey a forestry easement to Pope Resources, L. P., along a former road grade located in Lewis County for \$8,330.00.

Mr. Patterson moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mrs. Trudnowski.

Gloria Fletcher, Sr. Real Estate Officer, summarized the resolution which will execute and convey a non-exclusive, 40-foot wide, forestry easement to Pope Resources. Tacoma Power owns approximately 6,900 acres of wildlife mitigation lands located within the Cowlitz River Hydroelectric Project Boundary; Pope also owns several thousand acres of property within the same area that is used for forestry purposes. Pope has agreed to assume all costs and obligations to rebuild and maintain the road to current forestry standards. Tacoma Power will be allowed to use the road to access its shoreline areas as needed. The proposed easement contains language that minimizes impact to Tacoma Power operations and includes all applicable Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requirements.

In response to a Board request for clarification, Ms. Fletcher stated that the road is gated on the north side and arrangements with the property owner to maintain the gate have been made. Pope requested access to their property for maintenance and management.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

D-5 Resolution U-10847 – Authorize Tacoma Rail to enter into an inter-local agreement with the Port of Tacoma relating to a mutually beneficial rail improvement project.

Mr. Patterson moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mrs. Trudnowski.

Alan Matheson, Chief Mechanical Officer, summarized the resolution. This inter-local agreement authorizes Tacoma Rail to make a \$2M contribution toward completion of a mutually beneficial track reconfiguration and improvement project. Tacoma Rail, in partnership with the Port of Tacoma, recognizes that the assurance of continuing freight movement throughout Puget Sound is an issue of critical strategic importance to the City, Tacoma Rail, and the Port, and the parties have concluded that the proposed project is necessary to increase the capacity and efficiency of the local freight rail system to support anticipated future growth. Board Members made positive remarks about how this project increases productivity and is a good partnership with the Port of Tacoma.

H. Reports of the Director

There were no reports of the Director

I. Comments by the Board

Board Members Patterson and Larkin, members of the Click! Engagement Committee, commented that the committee continues to meet and work on a business plan.

At the request of Board Chair Flint, John Hoffman, Customer Service Operations Manager, informed the public that billing questions can be answered by dialing 253-502-8600; visiting www.mytpu.org; or coming to the TPU lobby.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board was adjourned at 6:50 p.m. until Wednesday, February 24, 2016, for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

Bryan Flint, Chair

Monique Trudnowski, Secretary