



APPROVED 8-23-17

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Meeting  
Special Meeting  
August 7, 2017; 9:30 AM

3628 S 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Tacoma WA 98409

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

The meeting was quorate.

Chair Trudnowski called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M.

Resolution U-10949 – Accept the intended notice of retirement of the Director of Utilities; Approve reappointment of the Director of Utilities for a term through December 2, 2017; Approve a Transition and Separation Agreement; Request the City Council to concur; Repeal amended motion 17-04.

Mr. Patterson moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Jones.

Board Member Larkin moved to amend Resolution U-10949 by adding new sections 5 and 6 to the be it resolved section as follows:

Sec. 5. That the Public Utility Board immediately seek and retain the services of an individual or organization with the necessary expertise to assist the Public Utility Board in developing and conducting a nationwide search for the Director of Public Utilities, with such search to begin as soon as possible.

Sec. 6. That the Public Utility Board's recruiting and hiring process will include soliciting input and assistance in the Public Utilities Board's actions from the Mayor and City Council, City Manager, the City of Tacoma - Department of Human Resources, TPU constituents and other TPU stakeholders; seconded by Mr. Flint.

Ms. Larkin made comments in support of her amendment outlining the importance of seeking a successor in a timely fashion and including Council and stakeholder input into the process.

Mr. Patterson added comments that he doesn't oppose the concepts in the amendment; however, more time is needed before voting as the Board hasn't had the opportunity to discuss the process to find a successor yet.

Mr. Flint added comments about the importance of this decision, the amendment language being broad while communicating a sense of urgency.

Chair Trudnowski made comments agreeing with Mr. Patterson's comments in that she would like to allow the Board to have time to discuss this first before making larger decisions.

A voice vote on the amendment was taken and failed with Board Members Trudnowski, Patterson, and Jones casting nay votes and Board Members Larkin and Flint casting aye votes.

### **Public Comment**

Sherry Bockwinkel, Donna Walters, Tom McCarthy, Michael Lafreniere, Lynnette (Sherub?), Claudia Riedener, Linda Fortune, and Kyle Jolibois all made comments in opposition of the severance package clause in the separation agreement and in favor of an expedient process to hire a successor that includes wide stakeholder input. Kit Burns made comments concerning what he sees as the excessive use of consultants at TPU and questioned Click! financial statements.

### **Board Comments**

Ms. Larkin commented that the contract offered the Director is consistent in terms under which the Director was hired and she looks forward to working with the Board in an expeditious manner on the transition.

Mr. Patterson echoed Ms. Larkin's comments.

Mr. Jones commented that TPU has had the opportunity to have a first class CEO for this organization and that is in peril in the future. Positive remarks about Director Gaines' vision and performance were made. Mr. Jones cautioned about hurrying through the transition and successor selection process as this is a critical decision and stakeholders will be involved.

Mr. Flint commented that if this was a severance package in the private industry, the severance would be in the millions and the importance of an expedient process that balances stability and continuity in the transition.

Chair Trudnowski made comments in support of conducting a fair, expedient process that is not hamstrung by false deadlines and includes stakeholder input for diversity of thought. Positive remarks on Director Gaines' job performance were made.

Voice vote was taken and carried.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. until Wednesday, August 9, 2017 for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m., followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

---

Monique Trudnowski, Chair

---

Karen Larkin, Secretary