



APPROVED 2-28-18

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
February 14, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Mr. Jones called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at Tacoma Public Utilities.

Present: Mark Patterson, Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Bryan Flint, Karen Larkin

Excused: Monique Trudnowski

The meeting was quorate.

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

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

Recognitions

There were no recognitions.

Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Consent Agenda

There were no items on the consent agenda.

Regular Agenda

- D-1 Resolution U-10991 – Award contracts and approve purchases:
1. Increase and extend contract to NAES Power Contractors for augmented labor and maintenance services through December 31, 2020 (\$3,900,000. Cumulative contract amount \$7,200,000, plus applicable sales tax);
 2. Award two-year contracts to Potelco, Inc., Michels Corporation, and Wilson Construction Company for Transmission and Distribution augmented crew services (\$400,000; \$300,000; \$300,000 respectively. Combined cumulative total \$1,000,000, plus applicable sales tax. \$2,620,547.50, plus applicable sales tax is total authorized amount with administrative authority);
 3. Award contract to Northwest Cascade, Inc., for the replacement of water main and wastewater sewer along Jefferson Avenue from South 21st Street

to South 23rd Street (\$643,995.64, plus a 10 percent contingency for a cumulative total of \$708,395.20, plus applicable taxes);

Ms. Larkin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Patterson

In response to a Board inquiry regarding the benefits of contracting work instead of providing it in house on item one, Toby Brewer, Chief Dam Safety Engineer, outlined the advantages. The contract provides the opportunity to move resources and the labor pool to where they are needed at any given time without shifting priorities. There are no portal-to-portal costs with this contract; pay begins when work begins, not transit time. Whether or not to increase staff at the hydroelectric projects was thoroughly examined.

In response to a Board inquiry regarding the benefits of contracting work instead of providing it in house on item two, Roberta Cox, Power Supervisor, outlined the advantages. The contract allows T&D to have crew and equipment resources ready at the call if needed. The work usually relates to storm restoration or immediate needs to supplement staff. Use of specialized equipment not owned by TPU, like directional bore equipment, is included in the contract.

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

D-2 Resolution U-10992 – Authorize execution of a collective bargaining agreement negotiated between the City of Tacoma and the Washington State Council of County and City Employees, Local 120.

Ms. Larkin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Larkin.

Corey Moriyama, Labor Relations Manager, summarized the resolution. This three-year agreement covers approximately 164 budgeted, full-time employees with 48 positions within TPU and 116 positions in General Government. Effective January 1, 2017, wages will increase retroactively by two percent and employees active as of ratification date of December 21, 2017 will receive a one-time 2.5 or 3.75 percent increase, depending on classification. Effective January 1, 2019, wages will increase by 2.5 percent. The agreement also provides for clarification to the language regarding how grievances are handled, defining of the work week as it relates to overtime, and the use of call in lists. The Council will consider this resolution at its February 27, 2018 meeting.

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

H. Reports of the Director

Director McCrea asked John Hoffman, Assistant Customer Service Manager, to provide an overview of improvements in customer service levels. Mr. Hoffman shared that in comparing statistics from January 2017 to January 2018, delays to customers were down by 71 percent and customer wait times were down from 2 minutes 31 seconds to 34 seconds. Mr. Hoffman stated he will provide a detailed presentation at a future Board study session on this topic.

I. Comments by the Board

Board Members made positive remarks about the customer service level success outlined by Mr. Hoffman.

Board Member Flint stated that at the day's earlier study session, the timeline to hire a Director of Utilities was reviewed.

Board Member Patterson made positive remarks about the Board's rate workshop held on February 7 as it is the groundwork for a successful budget process.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board was adjourned at 6:49 p.m. until Wednesday, February 28, 2018 for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Tacoma Public Utilities, followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Tacoma Public Utilities.

Approved:

Monique Trudnowski, Chair

Karen Larkin, Secretary