



Approved 5-24-23

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
May 10, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Mr. Watson called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: William Bridges; Elly Claus-McGahan; Carlos Watson; John O’Loughlin,
Excused: Holland Cohen

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Mr. O’Loughlin moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Mr. Bridges. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared adopted.

Comments by the Public

Mr. Lesley Evans made comments in support of TPU conducting a study of a molten salt prototype reactor with non-weaponized uranium to produce power.

Regular Agenda

- C-1 Resolution U-11383– Award contracts and approve purchases:
1. Award three-year citywide contract to Inter-Con Security Systems for uniformed security services at city facilities (\$12,000,000, plus applicable taxes. Includes option to renew for an additional three, one-year terms for a projected contract amount of \$24,000,000) [Patsy Best, Procurement and Payables Manager].
 2. Increase contract to NAES Power Contractors, Inc., for additional electrical services for continued support of maintaining and updating utility electrical infrastructure (\$400,000, plus applicable taxes. Cumulative total \$850,000, plus applicable taxes) [Paul Bekkers, Craft Shops Operations Mgr].
 3. Award contract to Empire Well Drilling, LLC for pulling, cleanout, testing, and reinstallation of up to four municipal drinking water production wells (\$817,858, plus 15 percent contingency for a cumulative total of \$940,536,70, plus applicable taxes) [Jason Moline, Civil Engineer/Project Mgr].

Mr. Watson moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin.

In response to a Board inquiry on item number three being above the recommended bid award, Jason Moline, Civil Engineer, stated that this project requires a well driller for very large wells. This is a specialized field with a limited number of contractors with experience. Many contractors work on small to medium sized wells. There are also unique challenges in that this is an urban area with obstacles like residences. Also,

sewer discharge permits and traffic control will be required. This combination of factors resulted in a limited number of bids and higher pricing than anticipated. Mr. Moline also clarified that well 6B is near 40th and South Tacoma Way and well 5A is off 56th and South Tacoma Way.

In response to a Board request for more information on item number three, Paul Bekkers, Crafts Shops Operations Manager, shared that this contract is to augment staff due to increased infrastructure and demand. Staff is still determining if this is a year-round demand. Power is currently down one FTE and there are limited people available to fill jobs, so this augmentation is needed. The need is partly driven by charging station expansion, uninterruptable power service installation on campus, seismic improvements to the Water building, electrifying the fleet garage structure, and adding fleet charging for pool vehicles.

In response to a Board inquiry on item number two about hiring locally, Mr. Bekkers shared that staff investigated working with Bates and are working with labor to better understand logistics to see what can be done in the future. NAES has a local presence in Issaquah, and they hire out of Local 76 in Pierce County.

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

D. Comments by the Board

There were no final comments by the Board.

E. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m. until Wednesday, May 24, 2023, for a study session at 3:00 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



Holland Cohen, Secretary