



APPROVED 1/24/24

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
January 10, 2024
6:30 p.m.

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

Present: Carlos Watson; Elly Claus-McGahan; John O'Loughlin; Anita Gallagher; William Bridges

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

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

Comments by the Public

There were no comments by the public.

Regular Agenda

- C-1 Resolution U-11429– A resolution to award certain contracts and approve certain purchases:
1. Award contract to Schnabel Engineering, LLC to perform a geotechnical investigation, dam analysis, and wingwall anchor design at the Cushman No. 1 Dam as part of a commitment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to reduce potential risks associated with the arch dam during an extreme seismic event (\$2,409,650, plus applicable taxes) [Kevin Smith, Systems Engineer, PE];
 2. Award three-year contract to Gordon Truck Centers, Inc., dba Freightliner Northwest, for the purchase of new and unused Freightliner model MT-45 non-hybrid and MT-55 plug-in, hybrid-electric walk-in step vans as needed (\$8,000,000, plus applicable taxes) [Don Ashmore, Fleet Manager];
 3. Award contract to D&D Products, Inc., Aquarius Systems Division, for the purchase of one new and unused Aquarius Systems TH-23 Trash Hunter heavy duty marine debris trash skimmer boat and trailer (\$962,840, plus applicable taxes) [Don Ashmore, Fleet Manager];
 4. Award two-year contract to TriVan Truck Body for the purchase of new and unused aluminum cube truck bodies as needed (\$1,091,209.20, plus applicable taxes. Includes option to renew for three additional one-year terms for a projected contract amount of \$2,728,023, plus applicable taxes) [Don Ashmore, Fleet Manager].

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Bridges.

In response to a Board inquiry on item number one regarding the unavailability of design work from 1976, Kevin Smith, Systems Engineer, shared that in 2022 a full-time records coordinator for archiving and maintaining project records was hired. In the past this was a part-time role, but given the nature of Generation assets, it is now a full-time position.

In response to a Board inquiry on item number two, Don Ashmore, Fleet Manager provided the following. Older models are not available in this current environment as staff struggles to get any vehicles due to supply chain. These vehicles are a few years out in the build process. The MT-45 and MT-55 trucks have different carrying capacities. The latter is a longer version of the former. There are operational differences. Water uses the latter for its distribution supply group and the former is a mechanical truck that needs to be shorter for maneuverability in tight places.

In response to a Board inquiry on item number four, Mr. Ashmore explained that the cube truck bodies are installed on a chassis; staff hopes to get the life of three chassis out of one body. All vehicles are titled with the City of Tacoma, but GG and TPU are separate fleets.

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

C-2 Resolution U-11430 – Authorize execution of a collective bargaining agreement between the City of Tacoma and Local 117 Teamsters General Unit for the period of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2025

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Bridges.

Dylan Carlson, Sr. Labor Relations Mgr, summarized the resolution. This three-year proposed agreement covers 243 budgeted, full-time equivalent positions with 47 positions located TPU. The proposed agreement includes a wage increase in each year retroactive to January 1, 2023, a general wage increase of 2.50 percent will be provided; and effective January 1, 2024, and January 1, 2025, a general wage increase of 2.75 will be provided. In addition to the general wage increases, market-based wage adjustments will be provided by classification as specified in the table in the resolution. The agreement provides for increases to the amounts paid for annual clothing and boot allowances; amends language in Article 7 regarding Union Membership and Dues to reflect legal requirement based on the *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31* court case; adds an application of rate of four percent for the classifications of Police Administrative Support Specialist and Latent Print Examiner when performing training, developing training plans, or participating in the evaluation process for the training provided; adds the classification of Tax & License Compliance Officer, Lead to Addendum A; clarifies work group scheduling and seniority for division specific sections, and provides language for an emergency standby schedule to be developed.

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

C-3 Resolution U-11431 – Authorize Tacoma Rail to accept a grant funding award from the Federal Railroad Administration to assist with the acquisition of two zero-emission locomotives and installation of the associated on-site charging infrastructure

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Bridges.

Alan Matheson, Assistant Rail Superintendent, summarized the resolution. Tacoma Rail submitted an application in response to a competitive call for projects by the Federal Railroad Association's (FRA) FY-2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program and received a grant of \$4,095,000. The application proposed to replace two existing unregulated diesel-electric locomotives with two zero emission battery-electric locomotives including the associated charging infrastructure. Upon completion, the project will improve air quality by eliminating emissions associated with the annual consumption of approximately 65,000 gallons of diesel fuel from operational activities. This and the following two resolutions are in alignment with Guiding Principle Five on Environmental Sustainability. Mr. Matheson outlined the environmental benefits and shared that the cumulative total for all three grants is \$12,690,000. All three resolutions will go to Council on January 24, 2024.

The Chair and Vice-Chair made positive remarks about these resolutions. In response to a Board inquiry about specifications and pricing, Mr. Matheson explained that the RFP will bring clarity to pricing and timeline. Staff will come back for Board consideration to enter into a contract for this equipment and will provide additional information then.

John Leer, Rail conductor, made public comment. These resolutions position Rail to be a leader and is an ideal use case for this technology. Mr. Leer made comments in support of additional charging equipment where locomotives are parked between shifts and lunch break because of congestion in the service area.

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

C-4 Resolution U-11432 – Authorize Tacoma Rail to accept a grant funding award from the Puget Sound Regional Council to assist with the acquisition of two zero-emission locomotives and installation of the associated on-site charging infrastructure

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Bridges.

Alan Matheson, Assistant Rail Superintendent, summarized the resolution. Tacoma Rail and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) jointly applied for and were awarded a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding grant of \$3,645,000, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). The application proposed to replace two existing unregulated diesel-electric locomotives with two zero emission battery-electric locomotives including the associated charging infrastructure. Upon completion, the project will improve air quality by eliminating emissions associated with the annual consumption of approximately 65,000 gallons of diesel fuel from operational activities.

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

C-5 Resolution U-11433 – Authorize Tacoma Rail to accept a grant funding award from the Washington State carbon emissions reduction account to assist with the

acquisition of two zero-emission locomotives and installation of the associated on-site charging infrastructure

Mr. O'Loughlin moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. Bridges.

Alan Matheson, Assistant Rail Superintendent, summarized the resolution. The State Legislature appropriated \$5,000,000 from the carbon emissions reduction account created in RCW 70A.65.240. The Washington State Department of Transportation awarded Tacoma Rail Grant Agreement RRB-1311 in the amount of \$4,950,000 from the Washington State carbon emissions reduction account. Funds from this grant will assist with the replacement of two Tacoma Rail diesel-electric switcher locomotives with two zero emission battery-electric switcher locomotives and the installation of on-site charging equipment at the Tacoma Rail facility. Upon completion, the project will improve air quality by eliminating emissions associated with the annual consumption of approximately 65,000 gallons of diesel fuel from operational activities.

In response to a Board inquiry about ramifications if the Climate Commitment Act is repealed by voters in November, Mr. Matheson answered that they are unknown at this time, but there is a contingency plan in place to pursue other funding mechanisms to make up the difference.

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

H. Reports of the Director

There were no reports of the Director.

I. Final Comments by the Board

Board Members wished all a happy new year and made positive remarks about the locomotive grants.

J. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m. until Wednesday, January 24, 2024, for a study session at 3:00 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



William Bridges