



APPROVED 7/10/24

MINUTES  
City of Tacoma  
Public Utility Board Meeting  
June 26, 2024  
6:30 p.m.

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

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

**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**

**Regular Agenda**

C-1 Resolution U-11461 - A resolution to award certain contracts and approve certain purchases:

1. Increase contract to Green Earthworks Construction, Inc., for homeless encampment mitigation (\$2,432,433.59, plus applicable taxes. Cumulative contract total \$4,616,293.65, plus applicable taxes) [Patsy Best, Procurement and Payables Division Manager];
2. Award three-year contract to Kleinschmidt Associates for fish passage consulting and engineering design services (\$850,000, plus applicable taxes. Includes option to renew for two additional three-year terms for a projected contract amount of \$1,500,000, plus applicable taxes) [Nikolas Novotny, Fisheries Biologist];
3. Award contract to Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc., for design of improvements to the Green River Filtration Facility ozone system and engineering services during construction (\$899,355, plus applicable taxes) [Mike Gorenson, Professional Engineer].

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

In response to a Board request for additional background on item number two, Nik Novotny, Fisheries Biologist, explained that this was originally constructed in 2006 and became operational in 2007. The Army Corp of Engineers wasn’t ready with their infrastructure at the time, so Tacoma Water didn’t have the corresponding passage upstream and it was inoperable. Now, 13 years later, the Corp is ready to build so Tacoma Water must be ready in time. This contract is needed to study facility capacity and run assessments. In response to another Board inquiry about improvements to safety and efficiency, Mr. Novotny explained that since this passage hasn’t been in operation, a baseline for everything needs to be established and will compare it to the assessment to find deficiencies.

In response to inquiries on item number three regarding the function and benefits of ozone, Mike Gorenson, Professional Engineer, explained the need to treat for compounds and how ozone is effective. The current ozone system is 17 years old and has a life span of 15 – 20 years and that many parts are either failing or no longer supported by the vendor. Ozone is a very strong oxidant, helps with algae, and improves the taste of water. The scope is bigger than just the ozone generator. The system involves other things like the gaseous oxygen system, pumps, and an assessment of the pipeline to make sure all parts are system ready. Because technology changes, staff will study what works in confines of the system.

In response to Board inquiries on item number one about contract scope, Tad Carlson, Sr. Buyer, summarized the increased spending due to the insurgence of homelessness after the pandemic that account for the increases in rates and equipment charges going up. The new contract specifically targets items that have caused increases like separate equipment charges. This contract responds to encampments, removal, cleanup, and to public comments on things encountered in the public.

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

**D. Reports of the Director**

Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Plan Briefing.

Courtney Rose, TPU Emergency Manager, and Debbie Bailey, County Mitigation Specialist, provided a presentation on the Pierce County Hazard Mitigation Plan relative to TPU. TPU has a specialized and timely need for an approved mitigation plan that the City's process does not allow. This incorporation will allow TPU to apply for FEMA grant funding for projects in Pierce County, and our operational areas in Grays Harbor, Cowlitz, King, and Mason Counties quicker. Pre-disaster funding opportunities include Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants and the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. TPU currently has several mitigation projects that would like to apply for the BRIC grant. Being part of a current hazard mitigation plan also makes TPU eligible for FEMA reimbursement grants and public assistance reimbursement under a federally declared disaster. TPU will implement strategies to enhance resiliency through mitigation projects.

**E. Board Comments**

There were no final comments by the Board.

**F. Adjournment**

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m. until Wednesday, July 10, 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