



APPROVED 6/10/26

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
May 27, 2026
6:30 p.m.

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

Present: John O'Loughlin; Elly Claus-McGahan; William Bridges; Devin Hampton; Anita Gallagher

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

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

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Regular Agenda

- C-1 Resolution U-11606- A resolution to award certain contracts and approve certain purchases:
1. Increase and extend contract with GFT Infrastructure, Inc., formerly known as Gannet Fleming, Inc., for dam safety engineering services supporting seismic hazard analysis and related modeling for Tacoma Power hydroelectric projects (\$300,000. Projected contract total \$800,000, plus applicable taxes. Extension of contract through April 30, 2031) [Paul Lennemann, Chief Dam Safety Officer];
 2. Increase contract with Schnabel, Inc., to perform additional geotechnical investigation, reporting, and analysis in support of the Cushman No. 1 Dam right and left wingwall anchoring project (\$919,615. Projected contract total \$3,529,265, plus applicable taxes) [Kevin Smith, Power Systems Engineer].

Mr. Bridges moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

In response to a Board request for an explanation of potential failure mode analysis, Kevin Smith, Power Systems Engineer, shared that this analysis is completed to identify, evaluate, and document potential failure modes associated with the anchoring process. It is an analysis of what could lead to failure and what mitigation measures exist.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

- C-2 Resolution U-11607 – Authorize execution of a collective bargaining agreement as negotiated with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen, effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2030 [Dylan Carlson, Labor Relations Division Mgr].

Mr. Bridges moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

Dylan Carlson, Labor Relations Division Mgr, summarized the resolution. Tacoma Rail and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen have negotiated a proposed collective bargaining agreement that covers 19 full-time equivalent employees within Tacoma Rail. The proposed agreement provides for wage increase changes retroactive to July 1, 2021, and effective through June 30, 2030. Wage increases will be applied retroactively for all engineers employed at Tacoma Rail as of the date of City Council approval of the agreement and at the end of the contract term, if a successor agreement is not reached by July 1, 2030, the basic daily rate will increase by 2.5 percent effective July 1, 2030. Other changes to the agreement include: Effective the first full month following City Council approval of the agreement, the employee medical insurance premium share will mirror that of other City of Tacoma employees; Tacoma Rail will match the 457(b) deferred compensation contributions of employees up to three percent (3%) of base salary, and subject to the limitations of the IRC maximum contribution requirements for 457 plans; The elimination of the historic "Wellness" program which rewarded employees for the non-use of sick leave. Employees who earned one or more Wellness Day(s) between January 1, 2020, and City Council approval of the agreement will be eligible for a one-time payment equal to two basic days' wages; In exchange for the union's prejudicial withdrawal of all disputed time claims associated with "working off bid assignment" and the removal of related seniority rights and penalty provisions in the agreement, Engineers employed on the date of City Council approval of the agreement will be eligible for a one-time lump sum payment of \$5,000; An increase to the amount provided for an annual boot allowance from \$200 to \$400; Edits to provisions related to Union dues necessary to comply with the *Janus* court decision; Language that provides employees whose original hire date of continuous Tacoma Rail employment began on or before July 24, 2024, will continue to participate in the longevity program. Employees hired as a Locomotive Engineer after July 24, 2024, will not be eligible to participate in the longevity program; Language changes to the Order of Call for filling vacancies; the elimination of outdated remote reporting rules; the establishment of a voluntary double time list; and clarification of second lunch rules; Updates and improvements to language to provide greater opportunities for the use of PTO; a change in the rules regarding the annual voluntary PTO cash out option; and updates to holiday calling procedures to match current practice.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

C-3 Resolution U-11608 – Authorize updates to Tacoma Municipal Code section 12.06A.230 to waive electrical permit occupancy requirements for nonprofit corporations when certain project criteria are met

Mr. Bridges moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

Seema Ghosh, Electrical Services Mgr, summarized the resolution. Tacoma Power is requesting changes to Chapter 12.06A Electrical Code of the Tacoma Municipal Code, to waive electrical permit occupancy requirements for nonprofit corporations when certain project criteria are met. Currently, nonprofit housing builders wishing to obtain electrical permits and perform electrical work must either intend to occupy the building that is being constructed or must hire a Washington State licensed electrical contractor, if the building is to be sold. The proposed change would allow nonprofits meeting certain requirements, that do not intend to occupy the building being constructed, to utilize certified electrical trainees under the supervision of an appropriately certified electrician to obtain an electrical permit.

In addition, the nonprofit must maintain ownership of the land on which the building is being constructed.

Board Members made positive remarks about this resolution. Jonah Kinchy, Director of Construction of Habitat for Humanity made positive remarks about this resolution and expressed appreciation to the Board for this legislation.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

C-4 Resolution U-11609 - Approve declaration of surplus for the McNeil Substation transformer no longer needed for Tacoma Power's current or future needs and authorize the sale of this equipment to the highest responsive bidder

Mr. Bridges moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Ms. Claus-McGahan.

Sean Veley, Power Field Operations Sr. Supervisor, summarized the resolution. Tacoma Power originally acquired for public utility purposes, 25 MVA distribution transformer, listed on the declaration of surplus property, which is in the background materials on file with the Clerk of the Board. Tacoma Power has determined that the equipment listed on the declaration of surplus property is no longer necessary for providing continued public utility service due to age, reliability and damage, and is deemed surplus to Tacoma Power's needs pursuant to the applicable provisions in RCW 35.94.040 and TMC 1.06.272-278. The equipment has an estimated resale value of \$30,000.

In accordance with 35.94.040, a public hearing on the sale of this surplus equipment was held. There were no public comments.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

D. Final Board Comments

Chair O'Loughlin shared that Board Member Gallagher received a do-pass from GPFC for reappointment to the Board. Council confirmation is scheduled for June 9.

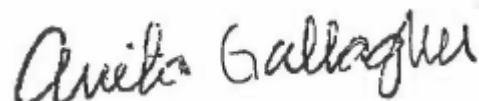
E. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m. until Wednesday, June 10, 2026 for a 3:00 p.m. study session followed by a 6:30 p.m. regular meeting.

Approved:



John O'Loughlin, Chair



Anita Gallagher, Secretary