



APPROVED 10/25/23

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
October 11, 2023
3:00 p.m.

Chair Watson called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. in the third-floor conference room (LT1) of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

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

Cyber Security Training for the Board

Rives Hassell-Corbiell, Cyber Security Awareness Program Manager, presented the Board with cybersecurity awareness training, a requirement for everyone with a city email address. Ms. Hassell-Corbiell, walked the Board through common targeted attacks, vulnerabilities, phishing, and best practices to mitigate attempts to bypass city systems. Training included how to identify false URLs and email address, and how to identify secure sites. The Director and Chair made positive remarks about this training.

Advanced Meter Infrastructure Project Update

Sally Mohr, UTS Program Delivery Manager, and Corey Bedient, Technology Manager, presented the information. An overview of AMI, its strategy, milestones, and highlights were provided. The budget, deployment schedule history, and progress of meters deployed were detailed. Accomplishments in 2023 include: power commercial and industrial deployment being substantially complete, Water meter deployment is at 80 percent; stakeholder engagement maintained, and MDM upgrade. Looking forward, TPU will maintain its focus on the customer experience; adapt/maintain flexibility to supply chain uncertainty. The project remains within the target schedule and cost range. The presentation was concluded by summarizing AMI’s operational benefits including grid modernization.

Legislative Agenda and Policies

Clark Mather, Community and Government Relations Manager, and Logan Bahr, State Relations Manager, presented this information. Staff is not recommending any changes to TPU’s legislative policy document. The proposed federal and state legislative agendas for TPU and each of the operating divisions were detailed. The legislative

policy and agenda will be presented to a joint meeting of the City Council and Public Utility Board on November 7, 2023, and brought forth to the Board for consideration on November 15. Council consideration would follow.

General Board Comments/Discussion and Director's Reports

Director Flowers reminded the Board of the budget and rates workshop scheduled for October 13.

The Board discussed the different options previously presented to them for Water rate adjustments in response to the closure of the WestRock mill.

Closed Session

Chair Watson moved to enter into a closed session at 5:01 p.m. to discuss labor strategy per RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) for up to 60 minutes; seconded by Mr. Bridges. Voice vote taken and carried; the motion was approved. Chair Watson announced that after the conclusion of the closed session, the Board would not take any further action and the study session would be adjourned. Chair Watson moved that at the conclusion of the closed session, the Clerk of the Board is authorized to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Mr. Bridges. Voice vote taken and carried; the motion was approved. The closed session was adjourned at 6:01 p.m. Engel Lee was the attorney present during the closed session.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



William Bridges