



APPROVED 3-27-24

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
March 13, 2024
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, Elly Claus-McGahan, Anita Gallagher, John O'Loughlin, William Bridges

Update on Guiding Principle Ten (GP10, Government Affairs): State Legislative Update

Mr. Bridges recused himself from this briefing and left the room. Logan Bar, State Relations Manager, introduced Rosa McLeod, Regional Relations Manager. Mr. Bahr provided an overview of policy bills: Tacoma Water (dig law; housing bills); Tacoma Rail (maintenance/preservation tax credit); Tacoma Power (solar consumer protections, zero-emission school buses, PSE decarbonization, climate commitment act). Budget items were then reviewed and included items such as: Grid modernization; pumped storage study; moderate income energy bill credits; community solar, assistance for federal tax credits, and green jobs and infrastructure grants. Of the six initiatives to the legislature, three were passed into law and three will be on the November ballot. Interim issues were then summarized. Power: No cost allowance adjustment mechanism; solar policy. Water: Upper Green River watershed acquisition. Rail: Tax credit bill. TPU-wide: Statewide low-income benefits; dig law. Staff will continue to engage with local delegation members and other policymakers on promoting ongoing priorities and identifying future priorities. Also, work will continue the implementation of the energy bill credit program and identifying new grant opportunities.

SAP Now! Update

Alex Yoon, Deputy Director for Administration; Susan Calderon, Assistant Finance Director; Daniel Key, IT Director; and Grace Brosnon, Asst. IT Director, presented the information in this update. SAP is the City's enterprise system of record for activities such as finance, asset management, procurement, materials management, customer services, personnel management, retirement payments, and utilities. The City's version of SAP sunsets in 2027 so upgrades need to be made by then. SAP Now! is a multi-year program to plan and execute this migration including efficiency enhancements for selected business processes. SAP use statistics were reviewed, and anticipated benefits summarized. Anticipated benefits listed were reduced risk and expense, continuity of operations, modern cloud infrastructure, modern customer service platform, improvements in efficiency, and increased

flexibility. Major changes in phases, the timeline, and project expenditures were summarized.

Tacoma Training and Employment Program (TTEP), Update

Kacee Woods, Equity in Contracting and Workforce Programs Manager, reviewed the legislative authority for the TTEP. In 1997, an ordinance established this program in the TMC. In 2016, this program was removed from the TMC and reauthorized via resolution. Program components include employment readiness training, case management and mentoring, supportive wrap-around services, pre-apprenticeship training, and job placement assistance. Proposed program changes were then outlined. These include: Aligning target population with broader equity objectives; expanding employment readiness training; Job placement assistance with the City; and Funding FTE project positions in the next budget. Tacoma Water staff highlighted success in the Water Utility Worker program. TTEP success stories, focusing on Tacoma Water hires, and equity outcomes were highlighted. Next steps include Council consideration, RFP solicitation, project awards in April/May of 2024 and program implementation by November 2024.

Sheryl Brown, Business Services Manager, then provided an update on Power's apprenticeship program. Power's apprenticeship program requires many prerequisites like basic electricity, algebra, and chemistry, so it isn't entry level. Power has spoken with colleagues in Water to see how barriers can be reduced. Power is looking to roll out a pre-apprenticeship program this summer that will prepare candidates for other jobs in the construction industry.

Policy Maker's Governance Series

The Board watched and discussed lessons on 'conflicts of interest' from the American Public Power Association (APPA) governance video series.

General Board Comments/Discussion and Director's Reports

Chair Watson gave an update on the American Public Power Association Policy Makers' Committee he attended in Washington DC.

Director Flowers provided an overview of the March 5 GPFC meeting.

Board Member Gallagher provided an update on Charter Review meetings.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



William Bridges