



APPROVED 8/13/25

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
July 23, 2025
3:00 p.m.

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

Tacoma Power: Detached Additional Dwelling Unit (DADU) Permitting

Chad Edinger, Electrical Services Manager, outlined Power's focus on this topic: Review construction and inspection pricing to ensure they're reasonable/recoverable; Review policies which affect cost to developers and rate payers; Engage with COT permit advisory taskforce; Engage with Master Builders Association; Engage with COT Planning and Development Services. Mr. Edinger then reviewed the TMC and WAC and Power Customer Service Policies relative to this topic. Much of the single-family development is occurring in denser urban areas. A single-family zoned lot with a main structure and DADU may now be subdivided into separate premises with ownership by two different parties. Mr. Edinger concluded by sharing the DADU cost breakdown and that a resident of a DADU would be eligible for electrical and solid waste bill payment assistance programs if they qualify.

Budget and Rate Process Proposal

Alex Yoon, Deputy Director for Administration shared that her team has taken input from policy makers on last year's budget and rate preparation process and summarized changes that incorporate that feedback. The 2027-2028 budget/rates process will start with a Board workshop in December 2025; it'll show a clear timeline and presentation schedule to aid decision-making for policy makers. Staff has taken a continuous improvement approach to this process. The calendar outlining monthly activities in 2026 for budget preparation was shared. It is created to provide additional time for Board consideration, create succinct decision-making phases, and provide staff more time for their analysis and attention to the workload.

Strategy Planning

KayLyne Newell, Strategy Manager, reviewed with the Board the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) exercise conducted at last month's study session. Ms. Newell reviewed the current 2024-2025 strategic objectives and shared the proposed/draft 2026-2030 draft strategic objectives on Employee Experience, Customer Experience, and Operational Excellence. Board Members shared their feedback on the draft statements. The Board Members then brainstormed the development of initiative language.

Board/Director Comments/Updates

Director Flowers announced that the August 19 joint study session with the Council is cancelled.

Director Flowers announced that Mary Bridge Children's Hospital was energized on July 1, 2025.

Director Flowers provided a high-level summary of the ongoing work to update the Board's Guiding Principles.

Director Flowers announced that T&D Manager, Joe Wilson, has taken a job as General Manager of Jefferson County PUD. Board Members expressed gratitude for Mr. Wilson's service and dedication and wished him well.

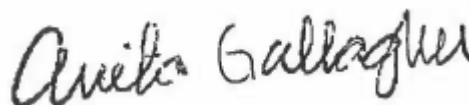
Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Approved:



John O'Loughlin, Chair



Anita Gallagher, Secretary