



APPROVED 2-26-20

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
February 12, 2020
3:00 p.m.

Board Chair Larkin called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Bryan Flint, Chrissy Cooley, Carlos Watson, Karen Larkin, Mark Patterson

Tacoma Rail: Northwest Seaport Alliance and Panamax Shipping Terminal Update

Dale King, Rail Superintendent, provided an update on the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), which is a consortium of the Ports of Tacoma and Seattle, and the competitive pressures in the Panamax environment. Panamax is defined as whether or not ships can pass through the Panama Canal, which opened in 2016. Ships are getting bigger and the Port's competitive environment more challenging. NWSA is positioning itself to compete in this new environment and Tacoma Rail is there to maximize its competitive advantage. Superintendent King summarized upgrades made to the NWSA to handle post Panamax-sized vessels and reviewed standard international shipping sizes, the evolution of container ships, the North American Seaport/Rail network, and provided an overview of other ports in the country.

Director of Utilities Goal and Performance Review Document

Chair Larkin reviewed the current review instrument for the City Manager for comparative purposes only; the Board will remain with TPU's current form for this year's evaluation of the Director. Two evaluation forms for the Director were distributed, one with detailed performance metrics and one without. Discussion ensued with the Board agreeing that it is good to see the metric detail for specifics, but when HR sets up the survey for Board input, it will have the high-level information on it. The details will be a separate form for Board Members to refer to when needed. The final review date is scheduled for July 14; it has to be done before the Director's second anniversary date of August 1, 2020.

Discussion of Board Policies

The Board finalized its review of Board Strategic Directive 7 (SD7), on Resiliency and Reliability. The next step is for SD7 to staff for finalization before formal Board adoption to be scheduled.

Edits for Strategic Directive 8 (SD8) on Telecom and Strategic Directive 9 (SD9) on Economic Development were discussed; the revised drafts will come forward at the

February 26 study session for further review and discussion before they are sent to staff to finalize.

Labor Agreement Review

Dylan Carlson, Sr. Labor Relations Manager, asked the Board if any clarification or discussion was needed on the labor-related resolutions scheduled for the evening meeting. In response to a Board request for clarification on Resolution U-11141, Mr. Carlson stated that Power will continue to own its own fiber operations network and will continue to maintain it. The technicians who do that work have been in the Click! bargaining unit. In the transition from Click! to Rainier Connect, there is no longer Click! traffic on the network so the workforce will be moved from Click! to the T&D section and fall under the Tacoma Power collective bargaining agreement.

Audrey Hornbuckle, Sr. HR Analyst, provided an update on the placement of Click! employees. Of the 87 employees, 77 have either received new city jobs, retired, left city service, or found other employment. HR is currently working with the last ten remaining employees for placement.

Executive Session

Board Member Patterson moved to convene an executive session at 5:40 p.m. for 15 minutes for the purpose of discussing pending and potential litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); seconded by Board Member Flint and approved by the Board. The executive session was extended at 5:55 p.m. for 10 minutes. The executive session was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. Attorney present was Tom Morrill, Chief Deputy City Attorney.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 6:05 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled study session on Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. followed by a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:

Approved:

Karen Larkin, Chair

Mark Patterson, Secretary