

League of Women Voters of Tacoma-Pierce County Observer Corps

Name of Agency: Tacoma City Council Study Session Date: August 28, 2018
Observer Reporting: C Rikerd _____ *Length of Meeting: 90 minutes
Members Present/Absent: Council Members
Others Present (i.e., media, public): Tacoma Public Utility Board members, by teleconference Joanne Hovis, CTC Technology & Business Consulting

Content (What is being discussed): i.e., *Did they approve some **action**? Does anything **relate to League priorities or positions**? If so, **do you recommend** local league action? Was **access** to materials for certain agenda items limited or excluded from you? Was background material available to the public?*

Agenda, meeting details and video are available online at:

<https://cityoftacoma.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3626541&GUID=ADE983B2-BF96-4755-9750-A317126D8E21&Options=&Search=>

At the end of the page is a blue ink "presentation" with the PowerPoint pages.

This joint meeting of the Council and Public Utility was to hear the presentation on the Click! Broadband Public Option Informational Study. The 3 options to go forward are public operated, public- private operated, or private operated. The presentation slide can be viewed at: 18-0990.

Regardless of which model the council adopts, the council has a list of 12 policy goals that must be met.

1. Public ownership of assets
2. Equitable access
3. Low-income affordability
4. Net neutrality
5. Open access to assets
6. Competition
7. Safeguard City and TPU use
8. Financial stability
9. Economic development and educational opportunity
10. Job options for Click! Staff
11. Consumer privacy
12. Consumer goodwill

Ms. Hovis's presentation spoke to costs and investments for each of the 3 models, and the fast changing internet and communications business models. A tax on all city households would be required to keep Click as a public owned model. If the city retains full ownership, there are market, technology and financial risks.

In a public/private partnership, the financial risks are shifted. There would be a binding contract, locking the 12 policy goals in place, with the private entity committed to investment and tech upgrades.

Throughout the presentation, there were questions about whether Click! Television could continue to exist, or whether it would be discontinued in favor of internet only technology. The fees for continuing cable television operations may be too high for sustaining the service.

The Council staff will be reviewing the findings for further presentations.

The comments of several council members indicated that Click! Might have to be discontinued, and they were not happy with this option.

There will be further discussion and presentations as proposed models are developed and discussed.

The News Tribune published a review of this meeting.

A previous council/PUB meeting August 21 also discussed the Click broadband Partnership idea by looking at other cities owning municipal broadband networks.

<https://cityoftacoma.legistar.com/MeetingDetail.aspx?ID=583541&GUID=6B01396F-17C1-4FB1-A052-B95DAED196D2&Options=&Search=>

Public Meetings of interest to League – i.e., *Were there any public meetings announced that you think League members may be interested in attending and/or becoming involved with the issue?*

The Council and Public Utility Board meet at study sessions

Process & Protocol (Observations about participants, conduct, and procedures of the meeting, and appropriate accommodations for disabled in sight hearing and physical):

i.e., Did the members appear to have done their “homework”? Were members courteous to each other and the public? How does the group respond to your presence?

A hardcopy of the presentation was given to each participant just after the meeting started. There were no copies for observers. All council members appeared prepared.

Reminders 😊

The purpose of the LWV Observer Corp is:

1. To promote public interest in local government and to be a “presence” to elected officials.
2. To alert the League Board to upcoming agenda items on which we have program positions on which we can speak.
3. To identify areas for future LWV study and action.

Observers play an important role as they learn about issues and processes and are in touch with what is happening in our community. A LWV Observer is impartial, silent, and respectful. It is, however, appropriate to ask questions for clarification. Remember to wear your awesome ID Badge!

Please attach the Agenda and any other materials received at the meeting that you feel are important to your report. Please try to submit your report to the LWV Observer Chair, Paula Eismann, within one week of the meeting. peismann60@comcast.net

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