

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY
OBSERVER REPORT**

Tacoma City Council Meeting - August 18, 2020

Video meeting

LWVTPC Observer: Lydia Zepeda

[Click here for materials for meeting](#)

PRESENT: Victoria Woodards, Chris Beale, Keith Blocker, John Hines, Lillian Hunter, Conor McCarthy, Robert Thoms, Catherine Ushka, Kristina Walker

ABSENT: Keith Blocker

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:02 pm

ITEMS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK:

Minutes, Greater Tacoma Regional Convention Center Public Facilities District Board, April 16, 2020 Summary: Net revenue up by \$128,000 Q1 due to expense savings due to COVID-19. Postponed transfer of \$950,000 from cash to capital fund to July 16 meeting. Most events postponed, not cancelled, attracting events that cannot book space in Seattle. Pierce County is maintaining sustained business from the Port of Tacoma, trucking and military.

Minutes, Tacoma Public Utility (TPU) Board special meeting, July 22, 2020 Summary:

- Adopted Letter of Agreement with the Tacoma Joint Labor Committee to implement “Rebound” pilot program (formerly known as Tactical Athlete) at Tacoma Power for twelve months to assist employees with diagnosis and treatment for on-the-job musculoskeletal injuries, by working with private insurers and workers compensation.
- Postponed Resolution U-11179 to August 12 meeting– to revise Tacoma Municipal Code Title 12 about demand meter billing for applicable electric meters, physical disconnects for unauthorized water usage, and updates for compliance with the 2020 edition of the National Electric Code.
- Adopted Resolution U-11180 – Utility Privacy Policy, replacing the existing Tacoma Power Customer Privacy policy. TPU’s deployment of Advanced Metering Infrastructure allows for two way communication with water and power meters. This permits detailed information about individual customers’ power and water usage. The new policy replaces department specific privacy policies to have a single TPU policy on sharing individuals’ data with third party vendors.
- Adopted Resolution U-11181 – Revisions to the Tacoma Water Customer Service Policy in support of the Advanced Meter Project to provide clarity of infrastructure definitions, their applications, and to comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).
- Adopted Resolution U-11182 – Transportation electrification strategic plan to comply with Senate Bill 1512 and allow Tacoma Power to promote transportation electrification.
- Adopted U-11174 – to amend the existing Department of Public Utilities Fleet Services Fund ordinance to transfer operating division fleet assets to the divisions for funding flexibility while maintaining the purchasing and maintenance responsibilities within TPU Fleet Services.
- Reports of the Director - on the 145th day of the Covid-19 emergency response the numbers are going up and Pierce County remains in Phase 2. Telework has been established through Labor Day and may be extended. 2019 was a challenging financial year for the Power utility due primarily to critical water conditions. After the stay at home order of March 23, retail loads dropped significantly and are currently forecast to decline by approximately four percent. The rate recommendation for water is a two percent increase annually to all customer rate classes.

Minutes of the Tacoma Arts Commission, July 13, 2020 Summary:

- Approved: Port of Tacoma's Port Centennial public art project. Artist team Rotator was selected. Rotator presented their final design proposal.
- Approved: all 2020 in- person Tacoma Arts Month programming cancelled.
- Tacoma Creates updates: funding, Expanded Learning Opportunities programming, Tacoma Public Library partnership, new logo and website, capacity building and engagement work, and the Tacoma Creates Advisory Board.

CONSENT AGENDA - approved unanimously (McCarthy abstains)

- Minutes of the City Council study session, June 16, 2020.
- Minutes of the City Council study session, June 23, 2020.
- Minutes of the City Council meeting, July 7, 2020
- Minutes of the City Council meeting, July 14, 2020.
- Minutes of the City Council meeting, July 21, 2020.

- RES40638 sets Thursday, October 1, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. for a hearing by the Hearing Examiner on the request to vacate a portion of the undeveloped north side of South 62nd Street right-of-way, to cure an encroachment.

- FINAL READING OF ORDINANCES: ORD 28616 to vacate the east 12 feet of Fawcett Avenue, lying between the southerly line of South 21st Street and the northerly line of South 23rd Street, to facilitate site improvements and future development.

- FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES: ORD 28686 to vacate a portion of South 4th Street, lying between Broadway and Court C, to facilitate development of an affordable family housing project.

McCarthy added proclamation of August 18 as Lincoln Hardware Appreciation Day in regular agenda.

REGULAR AGENDA

Motion to authorize the City's full and final settlement of all claims against the City in the matters of the Estate of Cale Tyler v. City of Tacoma and the Estate of Alexandria Lewis v. City of Tacoma, consolidated under Pierce County Superior Court Cause No. 17-2-13629-3, relating to the 2015 death of Cale Tyler and the 2016 death of Alexandria Lewis, upon a combined payment by the City in the amount of \$700,000. Approved unanimously.

Appointment of Pastor Michael Purter to the Board of Commissioners of the Tacoma Housing Authority for a term beginning August 18, 2020, to expire on August 18, 2025 (to replace Pastor Banks who is retiring and leaving Tacoma). Approved unanimously.

Public hearing on the proposed Six-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program amended for the years 2020 and 2021-2026. The draft program includes roadways, bridges, non-motorized facilities, sidewalks and other capital related transportation projects. It is based upon anticipated revenues versus desirable projects. There are always more projects than available revenues. The 62-page program identifies 117 projects: \$130 million for Active Transportation projects; \$125.5 million for Arterial Streets; \$413 million for bridges; \$44.5 million for Local Improvement Districts; \$65.5 million for Major Projects Funding; \$26.5 million for Safety Funding; \$22 million for Street Rehabilitation; and \$15 million for Traffic Signal/Lighting. The largest single project is \$180 million for the Puyallup River Bridge replacement, followed by \$150 million for the East 11th Street Bridge Replacement, and \$42 million for the Puyallup Bridge F16A & F16B Replacement. Approved unanimously.

Jennifer Kammerzell representing Public Works Department presents six-year program. It has been reviewed at study session August 4. No written comments were received. Public hearing closed at 5:15pm.

Lincoln Hardware Appreciation Day August 18, 2020 to celebrate 91 years of service to Tacoma. Mayor Woodard declares it as a week rather than a day.

REPORTS BY THE CITY MANAGER

On August 10 CPAC (Citizen Police Advisory Committee) hosted a community meeting on body camera policy. About 100 people participated and 89 filled out survey.

COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

- Thoms indicated appreciation for CPAC.
- Hines wanted to mention that Wayne Higgins passed away.
- Ushka expressed gratitude to neighborhood housing site staff for managing two homeless sites. There are volunteer opportunities at McKinley and 60th.
- Woodards expressed her gratitude to CPAC
- Motion to excuse Blocker, passed unanimously.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 5:33 pm.