



OBSERVER REPORT

Tacoma City Council Study Session
Joint Meeting with the Public Utility Board
November 15, 2022
Observers: Linda Tanz, Hank Tanz

Meeting Called to Order: 12:00pm

Present: Blocker (Presiding Officer), Bushnell, Daniels, Hines, Rumbaugh, Walker

Absent: Ushka, Woodards

Others Present: Jackie Flowers (Tacoma Public Utilities Director), Rosa McLeod (City of Tacoma Government Relations Analyst), Clark Mather (City of Tacoma Community and Government Relations Analyst), Logan Bahr (City of Tacoma State Relations Manager), Elizabeth Pauli (City Manager), Members of the Tacoma Public Utility Board

Citywide State and Federal Priority Agendas

Presentation to Tacoma City Council and Public Utility Board by Rosa McLeod, Clark Mather, and Logan Bahr

2023 General Government as well as TPU state legislative priorities and federal priorities were presented.

A. General Government State Priorities include:

1. Support of affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and shelter with funding, policy support of middle housing and tax exemptions for conversion of units to affordable housing, and coordination to address encampments in state Right of Way
2. Behavioral Health System and Vulnerable Populations Support with grants and policy support to increase mental health resources
3. Police Transformation and Public Safety
 - a) Clarification of street racing solutions and rules for vehicular pursuit
 - b) Independent prosecutions for use of deadly force by law enforcement
 - c) Support of Community Courts and alternative interventions to law enforcement
4. Transportation Improvements and Preservation, including remediation of unsafe sidewalks for individuals with mobility challenges
5. Climate Action, including uplifting communities vulnerable to climate change impacts
6. Cheney Stadium Improvements
7. South Tacoma Fire Station – funding for renovation
 - a) Equitable Fiscal Structure – Revenue sharing between state and cities, evaluation of present 1% property tax levy growth, and support of Washington State Tax Structure Workgroup
8. Renovation of Downtown Main Library

B. TPU State Priorities include:

1. General financial support from the state, as well as support for limited-income residents
2. Water – Infrastructure funding
3. Rail – Infrastructure funding

4. Power – Support to decarbonize the economy at reasonable cost, and support equal incentives for hydropower

C. General Government Federal Priorities

1. Affordable Housing and Homelessness – Pursue funding available through the Inflation Reduction Act
2. Human Dignity and Public Safety
 - a) Immigration Reform
 - b) Increase oversight of ICE Detention Facility in Tacoma
 - c) Address Hate Crimes
3. Economic Security
 - a) Support development of Guaranteed Income, similar to pilot program in Tacoma
 - b) Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals
4. Civil Rights
 - a) Respect for Marriage Act and Equality Act
5. Telecommunications --Protect Community Television Act
6. Implementation of Infrastructure and Inflation Reduction Acts – Prioritize and pursue funding for Tacoma needs

D. TPU Federal Priorities

1. General: Pursue funding for capital and operating needs and assistance for limited-income residents
2. Water
 - a) Support Howard Hanson Dam Improvement Project
 - b) Support additional water funding
3. Rail – Support rail infrastructure funding
4. Power
 - a) Renegotiate treaty regarding the cost charged to Canada for BPA power
 - b) Support carbon reduction policies
 - c) Support equal treatment for hydropower as clean energy

Council Consideration Request – submitted by Mayor Woodards and Council Members Blocker, Daniels, and Walker

Directs City staff and the City Council Economic Development Committee to review and suggest recommendations on how the City can improve communications and better support local business and the general community, specifically with regard to adjustments to business license fees.

City Manager Pauli briefly introduced her weekly report.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm