



Environmental Services Commission

Minutes

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Center for Urban Waters located at 326 E D St, Tacoma, WA and via Zoom Meeting

March 14, 2024

Vice Chair Sutter called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Commission Members Present: Bruce Martin, Chad Sutter, Erich Sachs, Mindi Keller, Matthew Benedict, Karen DiNicola, Marty Campbell (arrived at 4:16 p.m.), and Richard Doenges (arrived at 4:17 p.m.).

Commission Members Absent: Grant Middleton, Alex Harman, Jeff Paradise, David Dailey, and Esther Beaumier.

Vice Chair Sutter noted the lack of a quorum, stating until a quorum is present, we would continue with informal discussion.

Public Comment

The public comment period is reserved for items on the current agenda only. Comments will be limited to the amount of time announced by the chair, presiding officer, or staff liaison, no more than five minutes per person per meeting.

No Public Comment was received.

Approval of the February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Sutter stated that the approval of the minutes would be postponed to a later time.

Overview of the Budget & Rates Calendar

Kurt Fremont, Business Operations Division Manager, pointed out to the Commission that the Commission's work plan has been shuffled to better align with the City's budget process and timelines. He also noted that Commissioner DiNicola recently had a tour of the JMK Fibers facility and if there is interest in other tours to contact him. Commissioners DiNicola and Martin expressed interest in touring the Central Treatment Plant.

Christina Curran, ES Budget & Rates, presented an update on the 2023 year-end financials with rate impacts via prerecorded presentations and would be available for questions after. Revenues were greater than we planned them to be. Cash from bond sales continue to generate revenues.

Discussion followed regarding the following:

1. Capital Projects
 - a. Commissioner Martin inquired if in 2040 there will be larger expenses and would the Six-year plan account for those expenses.
 - b. Staff confirmed there would be larger capital expenses and that the Asset Management group will be providing information on how that is done at the May ESC meeting.

- c. Commissioner DiNicola asked what happens to the capital dollars if they are not spent.
 - d. Staff stated the dollars will carry over and the budget will be adjusted.
 - e. Commissioner DiNicola asked what the Stormwater capital asset sale was.
 - f. Staff stated it is from the sale of fleet vehicles at auction.
2. ES' Rate Model
 - a. Commissioner DiNicola inquired whether the rate model shown today was available to the public.
 - b. Staff noted that the City does have a similar online budget dashboard posted at www.cityoftacoma.org/cms/One.aspx?portalId=169&pageId=204315.
 3. Solid Waste Commercial Rates
 - a. Commissioner DiNicola asked whether staff have analyzed which services are utilized by commercial customers and if that would help understand and better predict the revenue variance.
 - b. Staff discussed the minimum solid waste requirements for commercial businesses and indicated they would include that information in the Solid Waste overview at the next meeting.
 4. Cash Balances and Assumptions
 - a. Commissioner Sutter asked what the City does with the extra cash balances and what if the surpluses were due to Covid-related assumptions.
 - b. Staff stated the cash is invested by the City's Finance Department until it can be used and that the 2022 budget did not have any Covid-related assumptions.

At approximately 4:48 p.m., Vice Chair Sutter noted that during the financial update presentation Commissioners Campbell and Doenges arrived, and a quorum has been reached. The Commission would now consider the approval of minutes which had been postponed earlier in the meeting.

Approval of the February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Benedict moved to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024 meeting, as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Martin. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

Commissioner Other Items of Interest

Commissioner DiNicola discussed her recent tour this week of the JMK Fibers facility. Some interesting facts she learned include that it is important to try to keep cardboard separate and dry, that you can leave caps on empty bottles, and plastic bags should not go in blue bins.

Commissioner Doenges stated he is leaving the Department of Ecology for new adventures and will also be leaving the Commission. He expressed his appreciation for his time on the commission and the great work they do. He also suggested staff connect with his replacement to see about serving on the commission.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.