

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Hunter T. George called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the pledge of allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Denny Waltier, Blake Surina, and Jamie Nixon were present.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES PRESENTATION ON RATES AND SERVICES

Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) staff, including Anita Gallagher (Regional Relations Manager), Jackie Flowers (Director), Scott Dewhirst (Superintendent), Francine Artis (Customer Service Operations Manager), and Christina Leinneweber (Utilities Economist), briefed the Council on the proposed 2019/2020 rate proposal for power and water. The presentation also included a background TPU's mission, its service area, long-term benefits and sustainable goals, and overarching rates principles and strategies to keep rates low. Gallagher indicated the proposed adjustments for both 2019 and 2020 included a 2% system average increase for power, and 2.5% system average increase and 2.9% increase for residential customers for water. Gallagher indicated the Board and the Tacoma City Council would discuss the budget and rates proposal in October, a Board public hearing, first reading of the ordinance by the Tacoma City Council on November 13, 2018, and anticipated vote on November 20, 2018, and if approved, the water rates would take into effect on January 1, 2019 and the power rates on April 1, 2019. Gallagher indicated they would be hosting an electric vehicle ride and drive event on September 15, 2018 at the LeMay car museum.

There was a brief discussion including possibly selling the City's water to TPU, inquiring about TPU Board's representation, how many of the Fircrest residents participated in the TPU discounted rate program, community engagement efforts, project caps for TPU's loan programs, incentive programs for electric vehicle charging stations, water meter technology, and TPU's residential conservation incentive programs. Waltier departed at 6:50 P.M and returned at 6:51 P.M.

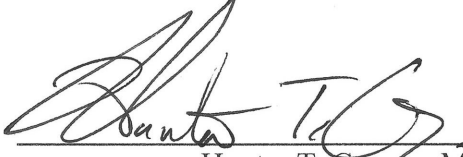
PLANNING AND BUILDING FEE SCHEDULE REVIEW

Planning and Building Administrator Stahlnecker briefed the Council on the proposed Planning and Building fee schedule, stating that the last update was in 2010. Stahlnecker presented a summary of goals, comparisons to other jurisdictions, variety in City fee costs and methodology (impact, review, and permit fees as well as flat rate and intake/deposits), current fee schedule, an overview summary of the proposed changes (land use, building, residential, multi-family and commercial, mechanical and plumbing), and a draft copy of the proposed fee schedule. Stahlnecker indicated expenses had increased since the 2010 update and that the City's fees were extremely low, and stated that in many cases, the City was charging less than the permits cost to process. Stahlnecker stated the Department predominantly processed residential permits similar in nature and value, and average one large commercial project every two to three years. Stahlnecker provided examples and the implications of the proposed changes.

There was a brief discussion, which included fixture fees, impact fees, building valuation schedules, staffing and overhead costs, comparison cities levels of service, the value of permit inspections, and what the City is permitted through regulations to recover expenses through fees and how the City justified its fees. There was a consensus to return this item to a future Council meeting, remove impact fees from the comparison analysis, and staff indicated it would do more research on intake fees, and provide more information on the Department's staffing and overhead costs to process building, construction, land use, and zoning permits and what the regulations permit.

ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 P.M., seconded by Wittner. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jessica Nappi, City Clerk