

MINUTES  
PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2021

The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a regular meeting, April 15, 2021. Commissioners Ang, Keller, McCarthy, Marzano and Myer were all present via telephone/video conference.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m.

**2. RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Commission immediately recessed to an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), to discuss with its legal counsel, one item of litigation or potential litigation and one potential real estate acquisition RCW 42.30.110(1)(b).

**3. RETURN TO ORDER AND FLAG SALUTE**

The Commission reconvened in public session at 12:00 noon. Commissioner Marzano lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was approved by unanimous consent.

**5. SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS / PROCLAMATIONS**

None.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded (Keller/Ang) to approve the amended consent agenda consisting of items 6A, 6B1, and 6C consisting of:

- A. Minutes of the March 18, 2021 Port Commission Meeting
- B1. Approval of the payment of checks 229333 through 229556, excluding check 229551, and wire transfers in total amount of \$6,611,733.61 during the period of February 27, 2021 through March 26, 2021.
- C. Approval of the voluntary extension of the Emergency Paid Sick Leave pursuant to the America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the period of April 1, 2021 through June 30, 2021

The motion passed unanimously.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT**

6B2. It was moved and seconded (Ang/Keller) to approve consent agenda item 6B2 consisting of:

Approval of the payment of check 229551 in the amount of \$14,974.44 during the period of February 27, 2021 through March 26, 2021 to the State Auditor's Office.

The motion passed 3-0 by the following vote:

Ang: Aye  
Keller: Aye  
McCarthy: Abstain  
Meyer: Not present (lost phone connection temporarily)  
Marzano: Aye

**7. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None.

## **8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

- The City of Tacoma's development regulations process is proceeding. The Port provided a comment letter. Staff from the Port met with staff from the City to explain the Port's comments. City staff recommended some changes to the Planning Commission in response to the Port's concerns, but many concerns remain. The regulations will proceed to the Tacoma City Council.
- Boat building continues in the Tideflats. Safe Boats, a long-term tenant, has received a contract with the nation of Ukraine. The Port has a new tenant, Silverback Boats, builders of small work boats.
- The internal audits were completed Monday. The audits were clean. The Commission will receive a full report.
- The Port's Executive Director reported he will be traveling to Washington D.C. to join the Port's partners to impress upon the delegation, the importance of infrastructure needs in Pierce County.
- Commissioners will soon receive the Port's midyear financial report.
- The Executive Director's annual performance evaluation process will begin soon.
- Commissioner Ang commented that while in D.C., Executive Director Johnson should tell the Biden Administration, that as part of their Healthy Ports Program, the Port of Tacoma needs funding for its shore power and electrification efforts per the Northwest Port's Clean Air Strategy.
- S&P's annual rating of local governments were released. The Port's bond ratings were upgraded in two of the four categories and remained the same in two.

## **9. COMMISSION ACTIONS**

### A. Resolution 2021-09-PT Adopting the Port of Tacoma 2021-2026 Strategic Plan

Presenter: Eric Johnson, Executive Director

**It was moved and seconded** (Ang/Keller) to adopt Resolution 2021-09-PT adopting the 2021-2026 Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan.

**It was moved and seconded** (Meyer/Keller) to amend proposed Resolution 2021-09-PT to add the words "including Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) licensed properties" to item 1. of the purpose of the plan to read as follows:

1. *Create a roadmap for the next five years laying out the Port's goals in key priority areas, including Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) licensed properties, along with specific strategies to help us achieve these goals.*

**The motion to amend passed unanimously.**

**The motion to adopt Resolution 2021-09-PT as amended passed unanimously.**

Discussion on the amendment:

- Commissioner Meyer believes reference to Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) licensed properties should be included in Resolution. The Strategic Plan of the Port of Tacoma does not exclude those properties and if one were to read the Resolution on its own, there is no reference to those properties until Exhibit A (The 2021-2026 Strategic Plan).
- Foundational Goal Economic Vitality, strategy EV-1, in the Strategic Plan reads, "Strategically acquire and develop real estate to support marine trade activity of the Port and The Northwest Seaport Alliance."
- Commissioner McCarthy highlighted additional references to the NWSA and the Port's relationship to it in the Strategic Plan itself, though he stated he is not adverse to amending the Resolution to include the proposed addition.

- Commissioner Ang suggested maps be made available on the Port's website or elsewhere that:
  - Distinguish Port-owned property in the Tideflats from properties owned by other entities
  - Identify which of the Port's properties are licensed to the NWSA, and
  - Identify the Port's habitat sites.

Discussion on the main motion:

- Commissioner McCarthy noted that the Commission opted for a five-year plan to address short-term strategies. This is a shift in the course of action. The previous strategic plan covered a 10-year period and Commissioner McCarthy commented that the 10-year plan was not referenced much post the formation of the NWSA. The proposed Strategic Plan is a good foundation and he looks forward to a very active implementation plan. He thanked all involved in its development, including all of the public comments. One of Commissioner McCarthy's key items to focus on is a new building for Port and NWSA staff to better accommodate the Port's strategic plan.
- Commissioner Ang recognized all that worked on developing the Strategic Plan. She commented that she doesn't think the Port would have received as much feedback from the public if virtual options were not available. She was heartened that so many in the community want to collaborate with the Port and want the Port to succeed. She referenced that though some suggestions from the public to include things in the Strategic Plan may not be written into the Plan, it does not mean those items cannot be addressed/included in an action or implementation plan. She noted specifically developing an environmental scorecard. She noted other areas she is happy to have addressed in the Plan including transportation advocacy, environmental stewardship and diversity.
- Commissioner Marzano also expressed thanks everyone and finds the public's interest in the Port and its future heartwarming. He agreed the action plan and scorecards are essential.
- Commissioner Meyer was pleased with the public outreach efforts. He looks forward to the implementation plan.

*Commissioner Meyer was excused from the remainder of the meeting.*

#### **10. NON-ACTION – NEW BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Keller would like to have a discussion in the future regarding the possibility of creating an advisory council to be made up of community members, Port staff, and Port Commissioners. This will help the community understand what the Port is doing and what it is about and perhaps gain their support.
- Commissioner Ang has been following the Pollution Control Hearing Board regarding a case brought by climate activist regarding the LNG plant and the complaint that it would be starting operations in May before the appeals process was completed. She is curious if that complies with the Puget Sound Energy lease. She supports an advisory council as mentioned by Commissioner Keller. She mentioned plans from Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and other organizations for a high school to maritime pipeline. Commissioner Keller informed the Commission that she has been in contact with Greater Tacoma Community Foundation and SeaScouts and the envisioned academy is in the works.
- The Port's legal counsel addressed Commissioner Ang's request to provide the related schedule of the Pollution Control Board. She noted that the Port of Tacoma is not a party to that litigation. The Port's Executive Director noted with regard to the lease with Puget Sound Energy, though under appeal, a permit has been issued.

## 11. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

- Committee members Commissioner Ang and Commissioner Marzano reported on the first meeting of the DEI committee. The first session was a listening session. Commissioner Ang noted that DEI work is part of the Port's values and if the Port wants to be part of regional economic recovery that is equitable, this is the work to be done. They were impressed by the participation and interest of staff. They both expressed a need for outside consultants.

## 12. ISSUE BRIEFINGS

None.

## 13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

- Commissioner Ang participated in a panel discussion and was asked about the Port's COVID-19 response. She expressed pride in Port staff in its ability to react quickly and its willingness to stretch itself to continue its work and help the community.
- Commissioner Keller encouraged everyone to keep wearing masks and get to vaccinated.
- Commissioner McCarthy:
  - He wants the Port Commission to meet in person, in public, as soon as legally possible.
  - He serves as the Port's representative on the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB). The Board oversees a modest sum of money allocated on an annual basis toward freight infrastructure projects. The Board has not been able to do a call for bids for projects due to budget issues over the past few years. He asked Commissioners to reach out to Transportation Committee members over funding needs for both future projects and existing projects such as SR 167 and the Fife/I-5 Interchange project.
  - He sees a need for the Port's Executive Director and staff to help the Commission weigh in on financial issues the Port of Seattle is trying to impose on the NWSA, and therefore the Port of Tacoma which contributes 50 percent to NWSA projects. He cited agreements the Port of Seattle has had with tribes located within King County and West Seattle Bridge (WSB) repairs. He commented that the Port of Tacoma has not sought the assistance of the NWSA or Port of Seattle toward its agreements with the Puyallup Tribe or toward funding the SR 167 or Fife/I-5 interchange projects. He considers those types of issues to Homeport issues. He commented that the Port of Seattle Commission has a large staff with an office that works on their behalf. The Port of Tacoma has a small staff and no office space for Commissioners. The result is that the Port of Seattle Commission is able through their multiple staff, to advance their argument for funding by the NWA and therefore the Port of Tacoma. The Port of Tacoma isn't able to do the same. The Port of Tacoma Commission is limited by the Open Public Meetings Act in discussing such items amongst the five Commissioners. Because of this, the Port Commission needs its Executive Director to weigh in on issues where the Port of Tacoma is getting pressure to fund projects in King County. He stated his opinion that the NWSA's leadership has not taken a leadership role in saying no to those expansion funding request in King County.
- Commissioner Marzano is working with the Executive Director in efforts of an in-person public meeting. He is in support of the efforts requested by Commissioner McCarthy regarding the FMSIB. He commented that Commissioner McCarthy's request regarding the NWSA requires an in-depth conversation. He doesn't recall the Port of Tacoma committing to WSB funding but does not want to preclude the Port of Seattle, NWSA or the Port of Tacoma from discussing funding of issues.
- Commissioner Ang echoed Commissioner McCarthy's comments regarding a meeting of just the Port of Tacoma Commission to discuss NWSA issues and the impacts on the Port of Tacoma.
- Commissioners Marzano and Ang emphasized that the success of the NWSA is the success of the Port of Tacoma. It is one entity and makes up the bulk of the Port of Tacoma's business – marine cargo.

14. ADJOURN

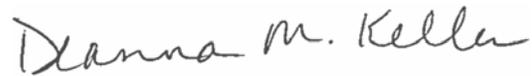
The meeting ended at 1:01 p.m.



---

Dick Marzano, President  
Port of Tacoma Commission

Attest:



---

Deanna M. Keller, Secretary  
Port of Tacoma Commission



---

Juliet Campbell, Clerk of the Port  
Port of Tacoma