

# MEETING MINUTES

Port of Tacoma Commission



## REGULAR MEETING

**OCTOBER 15, 2024 - 12:00 p.m. Public Session Start**

**Fabulich Center, Room #104: 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife**

The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a regular meeting on **October 15, 2024** at the Fabulich Center, 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife, WA. Commissioners Kristin Ang, Deanna Keller, John McCarthy, Dick Marzano, and Don Meyer were present. A quorum was met.

### **CALL TO ORDER | EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Commissioner Kristin Ang, Port of Tacoma Commission President, called the meeting to order at **10:00 a.m.** and announced the Commission would meet in **Executive Session** until **12:00 p.m.** to discuss:

- Three (3) Potential Litigation Items – RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)
- One (1) Sale of Real Estate Item – RCW 42.30.110(1)(c)
- One (1) Potential Acquisition of Real Estate Item – RCW 42.30.110(1)(b)

Executive Director, Eric Johnson, stated the factors allowed to be discussed during Executive Session in relation to real estate are as follows: size and zoning of the property, distance from and connectivity to deep-water marine terminals, job creation and potential, and consistency with the Strategic Plan.

At **11:54 a.m.**, Commissioner Ang extended the Executive Session until **12:05 p.m.**

### **1. RETURN TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE:**

Commissioner Ang returned the meeting to order at **12:05 p.m.**, and stated the Commission met in Executive Session until **11:57 a.m.** The public meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Ang acknowledged that we are situated on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe and committed to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land.

### **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Ang sought approval of the agenda. There was one request for a change in the order.

**MOTION: Move the Issue Briefings in the agenda order to follow Consent Agenda.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Marzano and seconded by Commissioner Meyer. Discussion ensued.*

### **VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0**

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Meyer	Aye

### **3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Eric Johnson**

- Our Touch-A-Truck community outreach event had over 2,000 community members attend. Eric thanked the staff involved with the planning and execution to make this a successful event.
- Our Maintenance Department took position this month of their first EV (electric vehicle) yard truck. This was made possible through a grant from the state. It is currently being used on the terminal.

- The advisory committee for the tideflats subarea plan is going well and nearing its end. We have made substantial progress with the sister cities involved: City of Fife, City of Tacoma, the Tribe & the County. The last meeting is currently scheduled for December 5th.
- A reminder that the next Commission meeting is on October 31st which is a budget study session. This special meeting in lieu of the first November meeting.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** None given at this meeting.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

A. Approval of the minutes from the **9/17/24** meeting.

B. Disbursement Certifications during the period of **9/6/24** to **10/4/24** for a total of **\$5,103,334.20:**

1. Check numbers **205** to **331** and **333** to **453** in the amount of **\$2,698,486.35**, and electronic payments in the amount of **\$2,402,76.35**.
2. Check number **332** to the State Auditor in the amount of **\$2,086.50**.

**MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda items 5A and 5B-1 as presented.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Meyer and seconded by Commissioner McCarthy.*

**VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0**

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Meyer	Aye

**MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda item 5B-2, check number 332 to the State Auditor’s Office.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Marzano and seconded by Commissioner Keller.*

**VOTE: Motion Carried 4-0-1**

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Abstain
Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner Meyer	Aye

**\*\*\*The following agenda items (10A & 10B) were moved up in the order to follow Consent agenda in this meeting.\*\*\***

**10. ISSUE BRIEFINGS:**

**A. Foss Waterway Update**

Steve Atkinson (Principal Planner—City of Tacoma Long-Range Planning) and Debbie Russell (Director of Business, Administration & Planning—Metro Parks Tacoma) presented. The update included a historic overview of the waterway, the vision and current planning, and completed projects to date. There is a desire to create a stronger connection to the waterway with a central focal point for recreation. MetroParks has partnered with the City of Tacoma. 8.4 total acres of parks is planned.

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**B. World Trade Center Annual Update**

Mike Fowler (Executive Director & Senior Trade Consultant) with the World Trade Center Tacoma (WTC) presented. He thanked Port & Commissioners for opening the administrative office for their Global Awards this year. The trade travel missions conducted by WTC over the last year were reviewed. The 6<sup>th</sup> US-China Sister Cities Summit, organized by former Port Commissioner Clare Petrich, was held in July in Tacoma. China remains one of our largest trading partners.

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**6. COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

**A. Port Security Grant Program 2024 Award Acceptance**

Colin Millan (Director—Port Security) presented on behalf of the Port. The request sought authorization to accept grants established to increase security at the nation’s strategic ports and currently administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Port projects associated with this funding were presented.

**MOTION: Authorize the Port of Tacoma Executive Director, or his designee, to establish acceptance of \$813,002.00 in grant funding with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), for the Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) 2024, which includes a 25% or \$271,001.00 Port match for a total authorization amount of \$1,084,003.00.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Keller.*

**VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0**

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye
Commissioner Meyer	Aye

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**B. The North West Company – 5-Year Lease Extension Approval (1st Reading)**

Einar Roden (Property Manager—Real Estate Department) presented on behalf of the Port to enter into a first amendment to the lease for The North West Company (NWC). This is the first of two required readings, and no action was requested by staff at this meeting. The approval will be sought a future Commission meeting. The proposed lease terms and premises were reviewed.

**MOTION: Wave the first reading and proceed into the second reading of the proposed lease.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Keller and seconded by Commissioner Meyer. Discussion ensued.*

**VOTE: Motion Fails 2-3**

Commissioner Ang	Nay
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Nay
Commissioner McCarthy	Nay
Commissioner Meyer	Aye

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**C. WSDOT-Port of Tacoma Phase 2b State Route 167 Completion Project ILA Approval**

Sean Eagan (Director—Government & Community Affairs) presented on behalf of the Port. Completion of SR 167 and SR 509 are part of the Puget Sound Gateway Program projects, funded through the Connecting Washington statewide transportation package. It requires matching funds be contributed by local government stakeholders. Interlocal agreements (ILAs) between the Washington State Department of

Transportation (WSDOT) and local jurisdictions were approved in previous years. Authorization to sign a new ILA (GCB 3338) is sought for the Port's financial contribution as a stakeholder to help finalize completion of SR 167, Phase 2b of the project.

**MOTION: Authorize the Executive Director to sign interlocal agreement GCB 3338 with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) revoking interlocal agreement GCB 3736 with the Department and making a financial contribution of \$15,798,026 to Phase 2b of the State Route 167 Completion Project.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Meyer and seconded by Commissioner Marzano. Discussion ensued.*

**VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0**

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye
Commissioner Meyer	Aye

**D. Middle Blair Maintenance Dredging Construction Project Approval**

Norman Gilbert (Project Manager II—Engineering) presented on behalf of the Port. Sediment accumulation is posing navigation & safety hazards and risk of vessel damage. Authorization to cover the costs associated with bids, permits, and the dredge construction contract, as well as approval to use Harbor Maintenance Tax funds for this purpose was requested.

**MOTION: Approve –**

- 1. Project authorization in the amount of \$4,000,000 for a total authorized amount of \$4,000,000, for associated with the Middle Blair Maintenance Dredging, Project ID #101692.01.**
- 2. A request for Port of Tacoma Commissioners to dedicate Section 2106 / Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) funds to fund the full eligible costs of this project.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner McCarthy and seconded by Commissioner Meyer.*

**VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0**

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Aye
Commissioner McCarthy	Aye
Commissioner Meyer	Aye

**7. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**A. Proclamation 2024-08-PT – Native American Heritage Month**

Commissioner Marzano read the Proclamation recognizing the second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” and the month of November as “Native American Heritage Month.”

**MOTION: Approve Proclamation 2024-08-PT recognizing Native American Heritage Month.**

*Motion was made by Commissioner Meyer and seconded by Commissioner Keller.*

**VOTE TAKEN: Motion Carried 5-0**

Commissioner Ang	Aye
Commissioner Keller	Aye
Commissioner Marzano	Aye

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Commissioner McCarthy            Aye  
Commissioner Meyer                Aye

**Commissioner McCarthy left the meeting at 2:01 p.m.**

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**8. NEW BUSINESS:** None given at this meeting.

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**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None given at this meeting.

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**10. ISSUE BRIEFINGS:** This was addressed earlier in the meeting. (See page 2 of minutes.)

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**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

- A. Commissioner Keller:** Attended the Palmer Pathways graduation on October 3<sup>rd</sup> for their apprenticeship program, which is part of the Work Central initiatives, which the Port supports. Traveled to Alaska visited Tote, Matson & Port of Alaska. Attended the Alaska Chamber Business Summit and had discussions with the U.S. Chamber about the global labor shortage market, and what is contributing to it. Encouraged voting in the next couple of weeks.
  - B. Commissioner Meyer:** Requested a future discussion on a return-to-work program based on the size of the new office building and our policy in relation to that. He would like to better understand the direction (demand and need, the impact on staff, and costs associated with it.
  - C. Commissioner Marzano:** Attended Touch-a-Truck event and appreciated the staff's work on it. He volunteered in the container at the event and described the experience.
  - D. Commissioner Ang:** Heard good comments from constituents who attended the Touch-a-Truck event. She reported on the Washington trade mission trip she and Commissioner McCarthy made to the Philippines this month.
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**12. ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner Ang adjourned the meeting at **2:11 p.m.**

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Attest:



Kristin Ang, President  
Port of Tacoma Commission



Dick Marzano, Secretary  
Port of Tacoma Commission



Helen Hickman, Clerk of the Port  
Port of Tacoma