

MEETING MINUTES

Port of Tacoma Commission



REGULAR MEETING

September 19, 2023 - 12:00 PM Public Session Start

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

The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a regular meeting on **September 19, 2023** at the Fabulich Center, 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife, WA. Commissioners Kristin Ang, Deanna Keller, Dick Marzano, John McCarthy and Don Meyer were present. A quorum was met.

CALL TO ORDER | EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Commissioner Deanna Keller, Port of Tacoma Commission President, called the meeting to order at **10:00 a.m.** and announced that the Commission would recess into a closed **Special Order of Business** until **10:30 a.m.** to discuss a labor collective bargaining agreement. The Commission would then recess into an **Executive Session** until **12:15 p.m.** to discuss:

1. Two (2) Items of Potential Litigation – RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)
2. One (1) Property Selling/Leasing Item – RCW 42.30.110(1)(c)
3. One (1) Item of Potential Litigation – RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) and Property Selling/Leasing Item – RCW 42.30.110(1)(c)

At **12:00 p.m.**, Commissioner Keller extended the Executive Session for 15 minutes and announced they would return for the public session at **12:15 p.m.**

1. RETURN TO ORDER:

Commissioner Keller returned the meeting to order at **12:15 p.m.**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Keller also acknowledged that we are situated on the traditional homelands of the Puyallup Tribe and commit to uplifting the voices, experiences, and histories of the Indigenous people of this land.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was adopted as presented by unanimous consent.

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Eric Johnson

- The Port's Summer Public Outreach Program is wrapping up with a final event. Our free Touch-a-Truck event will be on September 30th in the Port Admin parking lot.
 - The Port recently hired a new Security Director. Collin Millan was welcomed to the team.
 - A Memorial Service for Ralph Klose (former Port Attorney) was held at the Port last week.
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4. PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Mike Kisak, Capt. Dax Koho, Jonathan Hemmert, and Jirus Brenneise, from ILWU Local 22, all spoke on the ongoing contract negotiations.
 - Jeanette Twitty spoke on running for Port Commissioner Position #3
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5. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Minutes: September 5, 2023 and September 7, 2023
- B. Check Certifications: Checks during the period of 8/4/23 to 9/11/23

MOTION by Meyer: “Approve the above Consent Agenda as presented.”

Motion was made by Commissioner Meyer and seconded by Commissioner Marzano with no discussion.

VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0

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

6. COMMISSION ACTIONS:

A. Proclamation 2023-05-PT: Hispanic Heritage Month

Commissioner Kristin Ang and Sean Eagan (Director—Government Affairs) with the Port of Tacoma presented the Proclamation recognizing September 15, 2023 through October 15, 2023 as National Hispanic Heritage Month.

MOTION: “Approve Proclamation 2023-05-PT as presented.”

Motion was made by Commissioner Ang 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

7. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:

A. Recognition of Retiree – Louis Cooper

Louis Cooper retired after 18+ years with the Port of Tacoma. Executive Director, Eric Johnson, thanked Louis for his many years as a leader for both the Port of Tacoma, and in the community. Louis offered some closing words of his time at the Port and acknowledged the folks he’s worked with over the years. Each Commissioner wished him well in his retirement and thanked him for his work.

8. NEW BUSINESS: None

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. **DEI Workgroup Update** – Commissioners Ang and Marzano reported that the committee is working on the DEI plan and hope to have a draft completed by the end of the year. The work will extend far beyond

this year and continue with more employee involvement opportunities after the first of the year. Committee members were thanked for their work.

- B. Workforce Development** – Commissioners Keller and Ang provided an update on the committee’s work. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for organizations interested in partnering with us in these efforts was recently edited to increase the likelihood of bidders. The contract is open to everyone to apply.
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10. ISSUE BRIEFINGS:

A. World Trade Center Briefing – Annual Update

Mike Fowler (Executive Director & Senior Trade Consultant) with the World Trade Center Tacoma presented an annual update to the Commission. Training and events, as well as finances from the year were reviewed. The World Trade Center Globe Awards will be held on Thursday, September 28th at the Port of Tacoma Administration Building. The Port was thanked and recognized for their support.

B. Budget Priorities and Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

Erin Galeno (Chief Financial & Administrative Officer) with the Port of Tacoma presented an overview of the 2024 budget priorities. The proposed budget will be addressed further at the first meeting in November.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

- 1. Commissioner Marzano** – Commented on the memorial service for Ralph Klose, congratulated Louis Cooper on his retirement and recognized Sarah Weeks for her work at the Port, as she will be leaving for work with another company. He thanked all Port employees for their work.
 - 2. Commissioner Meyer** – Stated that he hopes the Port can reach a resolution soon on the contract negotiations that were addressed in Public Comment in today’s meeting by members of ILWU Local 22.
 - 3. Commissioner Ang** – Thanked Louis Cooper for his work at the Port, Sarah Weeks for her impactful environmental work and congratulated Christine Wolf on her retirement from the Northwest Seaport Alliance. She mentioned that the Commission takes public comment to heart. She suggested that now is the time to advocate for roads because of the transportation study on the Earley Business Center is complete.
 - 4. Commissioner Keller** – Recognized the folks that are retiring but is happy for them. Commissioner Keller would like to see exit interviews implemented to help address areas of improvement. She appreciates the work of the Port staff.
 - 5. Commissioner McCarthy** – No comments were given at the meeting.
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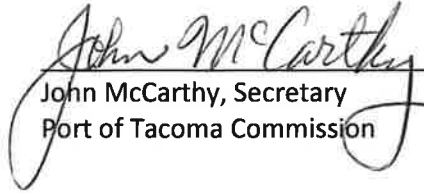
ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Keller adjourned the meeting at **1:50 pm**.

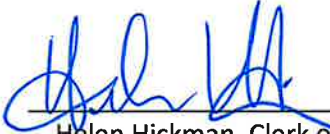
Attest:



Deanna M. Keller, President
Port of Tacoma Commission



John McCarthy, Secretary
Port of Tacoma Commission



Helen Hickman, Clerk of the Port
Port of Tacoma