

# MEETING MINUTES

Port of Tacoma Commission



## REGULAR MEETING

**April 15, 2025 - 12:00 p.m. Public Session Start**

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

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The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a regular meeting on **April 15, 2025**, 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 John McCarthy, 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:

- One (1) Evaluation of a Public Employee – RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)
- Two (2) Potential Litigation Items – RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)
- Two (2) Sale or Lease of Real Estate Items – RCW 42.30.110(1)(c)

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

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

Commissioner McCarthy returned the meeting to order at **12:01 p.m.**, and stated the Commission met in Executive Session from **10:00 a.m.** until **11:50 a.m.** The public meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Commissioner McCarthy sought approval of the agenda. There were no objections or changes. The agenda was approved unanimously as posted.

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

- Tideflats Subarea Plan Update – The City of Tacoma's Planning Commission has begun the formal review. Their code recommendations will be released tomorrow (April 16th). The Pierce County Health Department was asked to conduct an analysis of the health impacts, and the presentation is scheduled for May 7th. There will be a Hearing on May 21st. The Steering Committee will reconvene to hear the health impact in June and recommendations to the Tacoma City Council are expected in July.
  - Ports & Popcorn Community Event Report – The first in the lecture series was held at the Grand Theatre a few weeks ago. Rod Koon gave a lecture on the history of the Port. The next event is May 15th, and will feature the Puget Sound Pilots.
  - Earth Day Clean-up – We had over 84 volunteers pick up over 400 lbs. of debris from the beaches. He thanked Kristin Everett and Leslie Barstow for their work with this effort.
  - Annual Diaper Drive – This month the Port is collecting diapers for this annual drive. Please drop off your donations at the Port Administration building.
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**4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Bill Baarsma, former Tacoma Mayor and Council Member, spoke on behalf of the Tacoma Historical Society. November 12th marks the City of Tacoma's Sesquicentennial (150th birthday). He invited the Commission to join in the celebratory activities throughout the year. Handouts were provided to the Commission.

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**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Approval of the minutes from the **3/18/25** meeting
- B. Disbursement Certifications during the period of **3/7/25** to **4/5/25**:
  - 1. Check numbers **1752** to **1891** and **1893** to **2048** in the amount of **\$3,929,680.83**, and electronic payments in the amount of **\$13,023,916.39** for a total of **\$16,953,597.22**
  - 2. Check number **1892** to the State Auditor in the amount of **\$3,762.60**
- C. Terminate PQ cost Sharing Agreement
- D. **Resolution 2025-05-PT** – Surplus of Real Property and Authorizing Conveyance to Pierce County
- E. Second Amended & Restated Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the Port of Tacoma & Pierce County Flood Control Zone district
- F. Microsoft Annual Software Maintenance

**MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda items A, B-1, C, D, E, and F as presented.**

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

**VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0**

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

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**MOTION: Approve the Consent Agenda item B-2, check number 1892 for \$3,762.60 to the State Auditor's Office.**

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

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

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

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**6. COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

**A. EBC Temporary Tenant Relocation – Metal Building Utilities Project Authorization**

Elly Bulega (Project Manager II – Engineering) spoke on behalf of the Port of Tacoma. This request pertains to funding for prefabricated metal building utilities, and the modular office buildings and bathrooms, to accommodate our tenants during redevelopment of the Earley Business Center (EBC).

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**MOTION: Approve project authorization for utility, restrooms and modular office building construction work associated with the Earley Business Center (EBC) Temporary Tenant Relocation in the amount of \$3,333,000, for a total project authorized amount of \$6,557,000. Project ID #101686.01.**

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

**VOTE: Motion Carried 5-0**

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

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**7. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS: None.**

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**8. NEW BUSINESS: None.**

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**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.**

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**10. ISSUE BRIEFINGS:**

**A. Port of Tacoma Strategic Plan**

Deirdre Wilson, AICP (Sr. Manager—Planning), Alisa Praskovich (Chief—Strategic Programs & Commission Relations), Carol Bua (Director—Communications) and Sean Eagan (Director—Government & Community Affairs) presented on behalf of the Port. The Port is working on updating the Strategic Plan. The current mission, values and foundational goals were briefly reviewed and Commission input was sought. The current, individual strategies from the 2021-2026 Strategic Plan—Economic Vitality (EV), Environmental Leadership (EL), Organizational Success (OS), Transportation Advocacy (TA), and Community Connections (CC)—were reviewed for significance and relevancy for the updated plan initiatives. Commission discussion and suggestions focused on those areas throughout this portion of the presentation.

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**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

**A. Commissioner Marzano:** He had the opportunity to attend the Staff Putt Putt event this year and see the innovation around the efforts. He encouraged the Commission to participate in future years. He thanked Rod Koon for his role in the first Popcorn & Ports event at the Grand Cinema.

**B. Commissioner Keller:** She and Commissioner McCarthy attended the Daffodil events this year. The land parades in Tacoma, Sumner, Puyallup & Orting and the marine festival bring the community together. She thanked Katie Skelton for the professional signage on the cars they rode. She mentioned what great ambassadors the scholarship recipients for the event are for our community.

**C. Commissioner McCarthy:** Echoed Commissioner Keller's sentiments on the Daffodil events this year.

**D. Commissioner Meyer:** Tomorrow is the Propeller Club's scholarship event. There are 15 individuals who are included this year. Commissioner Meyer is honored to be a judge in this event.

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**12. ADJOURNMENT:** Commissioner McCarthy adjourned the meeting at **1:48 p.m.**

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Attest:

  
John McCarthy, President  
Port of Tacoma Commission

  
Don Meyer, Secretary  
Port of Tacoma Commission

  
Helen Hickman, Clerk of the Port  
Port of Tacoma