

## SPECIAL MEETING

**October 24, 2023 - 12:00 PM 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 special meeting on **October 24, 2023** at the Fabulich Center, 3600 Port of Tacoma Road, Fife, WA. Commissioners Deanna Keller, Dick Marzano and John McCarthy were present. Commissioners Ang and Meyer attended virtually. 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 **12:00 p.m.** to discuss:

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

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### **1. RETURN TO ORDER:**

Commissioner Keller returned the meeting to order at **12:04 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.

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

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

- Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge Closure - Last Friday (10/20/23) the City of Tacoma closed the bridge per the recommendation of the Federal Highway Administration because they were unable to complete the inspection due to debris and bird waste. The cost for clean-up is several million dollars and would take multiple years for clean-up. We were not given advanced notice of the closure. We are currently working on obtaining a report of all the bridges affecting traffic within the tideflats.
- Hylebos Bridge – A tugboat hit one of the fenders that protects the bridge. It will be closed to traffic for 1-3 months to fix.
- Public Engagement Activities – Over 2,000 members of the public attended our free family Touch-A-Truck event. The Salmon Homecoming Day welcomed about 1,000 in attendance. We had a booth at the City of Destiny Festival at the Foss Waterway Seaport.
- Staff Event – The annual Port Staff Chili Cookoff competition will be October 25th.

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### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- Craig Brix, Vice President of ILWU Local 22, all spoke on the ongoing contract negotiations.

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**7. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

*Agenda item #7 - Special Order of Business was moved up in the agenda, with no objections.*

**A. Recognition of Retiree – Brenda Hauge**

Brenda Hauge is retiring after 35 years with the Port of Tacoma. Executive Director, Eric Johnson, thanked and recognized Brenda for her many years of service. Brenda spoke a few words and indicated that she will miss the people she worked with the most. The Commissioners expressed gratitude for her many years of work, her excellent customer service and overall contributions to the success of the Port of Tacoma.

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**5. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A.** Minutes: September 19, 2023

**B.** Check Certifications: Checks during the period of 9/12/23 to 10/5/23

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

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

**VOTE BY ROLL CALL FROM CLERK: Motion Carried 5-0**

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

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**6. COMMISSION ACTIONS:**

**A. Proclamation 2023-06-PT: Native American Heritage & Indigenous Peoples’ Day**

Commissioner Kristin Ang and Sean Eagan (Director—Government Affairs) with the Port of Tacoma Presented. Commissioner Ang read the Proclamation recognizing the second Monday of October as “Indigenous Peoples’ Day” and the month of November as “Native American Heritage Month.”

**MOTION: “Approve Proclamation 2023-06-PT as presented.”**

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

**VOTE BY ROLL CALL FROM CLERK: Motion Carried 5-0**

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

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**B. Maritime Center Project**

Alisa Praskovich (Chief—Strategic Projects & Commission Relations) and Stan Ryter (Sr. Project Manager—Engineering) with the Port of Tacoma presented. They requested authorization for an increase in the amount of funding and to amend the second Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with Tacoma Public Schools (TPS) for the Port’s reimbursement amount. This phase funds all early planning and 30% of the design. Background of the project was reviewed from March 2023 when the first ILA with Tacoma Public Schools was executed through the selection of a Design Build Team in August 2023. The site and scope of the project related to the authorization ask, timeline and financial summary for the cost on the Port of Tacoma side were presented. It was noted that the cost split with TPS is equitable. This amendment establishes a not-to-exceed amount with Parametix, the design build project management company. Next steps to seek external group input are scheduled to occur in mid-November.

**MOTION: “To approve -**

- 1. Project authorization in the amount \$2,970,000 for a total authorized amount of \$2,793,000 for a total authorized amount of \$4,770,000, for work associated with the Port of Tacoma Maritime Skills Center and Port Maritime Center.**
- 2. Authorization for the Executive Director to enter into an amendment to the Second Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between the Tacoma Public School District (District) and the Port of Tacoma (Port) to outline the payment reimbursement process for the Initial Design Build Contract and establish a not-to-exceed amount for Port reimbursement of Parametrix Services.”**

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

**VOTE BY ROLL CALL FROM CLERK: 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:**

*Note: This item was moved up in the agenda.*

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**8. NEW BUSINESS: None**

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**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. **Audit Committee** – Continuing with Moss Adams for next the next audit. Darren Arakaki, Port of Tacoma Auditor, will be retiring and will be missed. He was thanked for his work as auditor over the years.

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**10. ISSUE BRIEFINGS: None**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

1. **Commissioner McCarthy** – Requesting a Tideflat Transportation Plan, which is something he has requested previously, but the need is accentuated more with the Fishing Wars Memorial Bridge closure. He expressed concern over the sudden notice of the bridge closure and the communication lines with the City of Tacoma, Department of Transportation or Federal Highway Administration in getting such short notice.
2. **Commissioner Meyer** – Echoed Commissioner McCarthy’s comments and expressed concern that it will take over a year to address the bridge issue. Are there steps we can take to help expedite this process or work with partners to reduce this timeline, as the bridge is a critical part of our transportation corridor? He also requested a current inspection report for all the key bridges in the tideflats and the status of those inspections.
3. **Commissioner Ang** – Agrees with the need to expedite and work with our partners to resolve, and considers this a critical transportation infrastructure emergency. The U.S. Dept of Energy selected the Pacific Northwest as a regional clean hydrogen hub. As a result, we are eligible to receive up to \$1 billion over 9 years toward our decarbonizing efforts. She is curious to see where the Port of Tacoma fits with regard to this particular hub, aside from the Northwest Seaport Alliance’s position.
4. **Commissioner Marzano** – Echoed the sentiments of his Commission colleagues. He indicated that the City of Tacoma (and not the Port) is responsible for the bridge and that a special study session might be needed. He and Commissioner Ang attended the Tacoma Urban League Empowerment Awards.
5. **Commissioner Keller** – Thanked Commissioners Ang and Meyer for attending virtually. Echoed what the other Commissioners said regarding the bridge. She offered her condolences for the ILWU Local 23 worker who passed away while working at Husky, due to a heart attack. Her thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Keller adjourned the meeting at **1:04 pm**.

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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