

MINUTES  
PORT OF TACOMA COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING  
May 20, 2021

The Port of Tacoma Commission met for a regular meeting, May 20, 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 Port's Executive Director announced the factors impacting the price of real estate potentially offered for lease, including: proximity to water, the number of jobs created, consistency with the Port's Strategic Plan and credit worthiness of the potential tenant. The Commission then recessed to an executive session pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), to discuss with its legal counsel, two items of litigation or potential litigation and one potential real estate lease RCW 42.30.110(1)(c). The executive session lasted one hour and 50 minutes. No votes or actions were taken.

**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 amended by unanimous consent to hear item 11, a report from the Audit Committee, before the consent agenda.

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

None.

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Commissioner Keller reported that the recommendation of the Audit Committee is to extend the contract with the Port's financial auditors, RSM US LLP, for one year. The basis provided is that the complexity of the relationship between the Port of Tacoma and The Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA) warrants any new auditing firm be vetted in person. The same request is being made regarding RSM's contract with the NWSA. This keeps the contracts in alignment.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

It was moved and seconded (Meyer/Keller) to approve the consent agenda consisting of:

- A. Minutes of the March 4, March 10, and April 15, 2021 Port Commission Meetings.
- B. Approval of the payment of checks 229557 through 229886, and wire transfers in total amount of \$25,252,177.21 during the period of March 27, 2021 through April 30, 2021.
- C. Authorization to extend contract 070171 for financial audit services with RSM US LLP, for one year in the amount of \$113,500 for a total contract amount of \$651,000 for six years. (Approved by the Port of Tacoma Audit Committee on April 22, 2021).
- D. Ratification of three current benefit vendor contracts: First Choice Health Administrators, Reliastar Life Insurance Company, and Regence Blue Shield.

The motion passed unanimously.

**7. PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

None.

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT**

Executive Director, Eric Johnson, provided his report to the Commission. Topics included:

- o Status of implementation plan associated with the Port's Strategic Plan.
- o Working with the Port's federal delegation regarding earmarks for infrastructure projects.
- o In person meetings are in the works.

- o Evette Mason, Local Government Affairs Representative recently retired. He thanked her for her 32 years of service to the Port.

**9. COMMISSION ACTIONS**

A. Property and Casualty Insurance Broker Services Agreement

Presenter: Lou Paulsen, Director, Strategic Operations Projects and Risk Management

**It was moved and seconded** (McCarthy/Keller) to grant authorization for the Executive Director or his designee to enter into a Personal Services Agreement with Alliant Insurance Services, Inc. commencing October 1, 2021, and continuing with optional extensions for a period of up to six (6) years concluding September 30, 2021, for a not to exceed amount of \$452,690.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion:

- Commissioner Meyer commented that he is interested in coverage at a competitive cost. Staff assured Commissioner Meyer that cost was a factor of the evaluation criteria.
- Deb Bovee of Alliant was present and commented on the company's experience working with the port industry. This she says makes Alliant able to meet the port's insurance and risk management needs.

B. Parcel 40 Insurance Recovery

Presenter: Sarah Weeks, Environmental Project Manager

**It was moved and seconded** (Meyer/Ang) to grant project authorization in the amount of \$670,000, for a total authorized amount of \$1,274,000, for the Parcel 40 Environmental Cleanup, MID 101486.03.

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion:

- Staff clarified Personal Services Agreement 071405 with Restorical Research LLC was executed under the Delegation of Authority to the Executive Director. The Proposed Personal Services Agreement 071529 with Matthew W. Cockrell & Associates, P.C. is in draft pending Commission authorization by this action.

C. Local Economic Development Investment Fund Program

Presenter: Leslie Barstow, Manager Community Relations

**It was moved and seconded** (Keller/Ang) to authorize the Executive Director or his designee to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the City of Gig Harbor, The City of Tacoma, and the City of Pacific and to fund investments to eight Pierce County non-profit organizations at the following amounts, from the Local Economic Development Investment Fund (LEDIF), for a total authorized amount of \$162,000:

o City of Gig Harbor	\$25,000
o City of Pacific	\$50,000
o City of Tacoma	\$4,000
o Foss Waterway Seaport Museum	\$1,000
o Foss Waterway Seaport Museum	\$7,500
o The Harbor History Museum	\$10,000
o Key Peninsula Farm Tour	\$2,000
o Museum of Glass	\$6,000
o Tacoma Historical Society	\$5,000
o Travel Tacoma	\$20,000
o Travel Tacoma	\$2,000
o Washington State Historical Society	\$17,000
o William Factor Small Business Incubator	\$12,500

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Discussion:

- Commissioner Meyer commented that the LEDIF shows the Port's role of economic development and helping other organizations in the community do projects that they may not otherwise qualify for or be able to do.
- Commissioner Keller commented on the high quality of the projects submitted.
- Commissioner Ang commented she is pleased the project support was spread out geographically. She is excited for events that are coming up. She hopes that next year the entirety of the fund is spent. Staff informed that if a project comes up later in the year that may be applicable, there is nothing that prohibits the Commission from its consideration.
- Commissioner McCarthy commented on the process. The committee is constantly reviewing criteria. He noted recent press which brought attention to the LEDIF program, including articles regarding the Browns Point Lighthouse Restoration and the Asia Pacific Cultural Center.
- Commissioners all thanked staff involved in the process.

**10. NON-ACTION – NEW BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Ang stated she is receiving a lot of questions regarding Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) LNG plant. She expressed that though the contract does not for it, she would have expected PSE as a courtesy, to inform the Port that it was operating its plant. She would like to know from staff if the contract requires notification regarding other issues, such as minor incidents or accidents where they are required to inform the Port so the Port can take appropriate action. She would also like to know if permits are required for bunkering and barging and would like more information on apparent discrepancies between the City of Tacoma and PSE regarding barging. She wants to know about all the permits PSE is involved in on Port of Tacoma land.
- Commissioner Meyer would like the Bylaws regarding the order of business at Commission meetings modified so that public comment is heard earlier in the agenda before the consent agenda. He supports having the Port of Tacoma work in a more collaborative fashion with the City of Tacoma as it relates to Interim Regulations. He asked that staff prepare a resolution regarding changing the name of Mount Rainer to what the Puyallup Tribe views as the appropriate name.
- Commissioner Keller would like the Executive Director and staff to report to the Commission regarding the potential of creating a Citizens Advisory Council or some other organized outreach. She noted the Port means different things to the different regions in Pierce County.
- Commissioner McCarthy recommended work sessions, in person to address some of these issues. Commissioner Marzano agreed and would like one scheduled before the next Commission meeting.
- Mr. Johnson proposed the Commission visit the Port of Kalama to see their Waterfront Development Project.

**11. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. *Audit Committee – The agenda was amended to hear this item after Item 5.*

**12. ISSUE BRIEFINGS**

None.

**13. ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

- The Mr. Johnson announced the June Port Commission Agenda will be much longer than today's meeting.
- Commissioner Ang recognized Asian American Heritage Month. She stated Asian American have experienced an increase in hate crimes. For those that want to be an ally, she offered the website stopaaphate.org. The Port celebrated Earth Day, she recognized staff involved in representing the Port. She mentioned improvements to the Port's website. She encouraged public to visit the website if they are interested in seeing all the work the Port has done for the environment. She recognized the Port's environmental team.
- Commissioner Keller recognized Evette Mason in her retirement and her contributions to the Port.

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- Commissioner McCarthy also recognized Evette Mason. He hopes to celebrate when in-person meetings can occur. Non interim regulations work. He is curious as to the WPPA's comments regarding Governor Inslee's recent veto on transportation projects. Mr. Johnson responded that the action surprised many across the political spectrum. It has been viewed generally as unhelpful to the overall discussion of carbon and transportation.
- Commissioner Meyer commented that the governor's action may be sorted out either politically or through the courts. He also recognized Evette Mason for her contributions. The Tacoma Advantage is due in large part to the capable staff and labor relationships. Ms. Mason was the best of the best. He wants Commission involvement in the development of the implementation plan related to the Port's Strategic Plan.
- Commissioner Marzano reported that he and Mr. Johnson will be meeting with the cities of Tacoma, Lakewood and Puyallup to provide insight to the challenges being faced by the Port. The Port of Tacoma was awarded the WPPA's Environmental Stewardship Award. He acknowledged Port staff and noted that the award is a testament to the Port's environmental concerns and reflects how seriously the Port takes its stewardship role and that the Port leaves a better footprint than the one that it found. He also recognized Evette Mason.

**14. ADJOURN**

The meeting ended at 1:04 p.m.



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Dick Marzano, President  
Port of Tacoma Commission

Attest:



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Deanna M. Keller, Secretary  
Port of Tacoma Commission



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Juliet Campbell, Clerk of the Port  
Port of Tacoma