

City of Tacoma Civil Service Board MINUTES

Date and Time: September 5, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.
Location: Tacoma Municipal Building North, Room 16
Chair: Beckie Summers
Coordinator: Wendy Hobson

Call to Order:

The Civil Service Board meeting was called to order in Room 16 of the Tacoma Municipal Building North. Board Members Summers, Sexton, McKenna, Latch and Kielian were present.

Chair Summers announced that we were not going to follow the agenda in the order it is presented. We are going to hear first from Board Member McKenna as he has an announcement to make. Board Member McKenna then announced he will be stepping down from his position on the Board as he has recently purchased a home in Fircrest which is outside the city limits.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOTIONED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER MCKENNA. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER LATCH.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. MOTION TO ACCEPT BOARD MEMBER MCKENNA'S RESIGNATION WAS PASSED.

Chair Summers announced the temporary appointment of Amy Heller who previously served on the board.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOTIONED TO APPOINTMENT AMY HELLER TO THE TEMPORARY POSITION ON THE BOARD BEING VACATED BY BOARD MEMBER MCKENNA. BOARD MEMBER LATCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. THE MOTION WAS PASSED.

City Clerk, Doris Sorum then administered the Oath of Office to Temporary Board Member Amy Heller.

Chair Summers then took a moment to thank departing Board Member Charles McKenna for his service on the board. Board Member Sexton joined in the comments to recognize and thank Board Member McKenna. Board Member Latch added her thanks and appreciation and wished Board Member McKenna well. Board Member Kielian expressed her thanks to Board Member McKenna for being a great mentor to her being the newest member of the board. Temporary Board Member Heller acknowledged she had big shoes to fill and looks forward to working with Board Member McKenna in the future. Chair Summers presented Board Member McKenna with a plaque in honor of his service. Board Member McKenna thanked members of the Board and the City.

Action on Matters Still Pending/New Business:

Chair Summers introduced City Manager, T.C. Broadnax who is here this evening to provide follow up on the City's Boards and Commissions report. T.C. thanked the Board for allowing him to join them this evening. He then reviewed the results and findings of the report and went into great detail on how the findings have impacted the various boards and commissions and the changes that have occurred as a result. He addressed the Board's concerns about the meetings not being televised and explained it was not a budget related decision but that it was to re-purpose staffing resources.

Board Member Sexton thanked Mr. Broadnax for being here tonight. He indicated that he understood and had been told that the decision to no longer broadcast the meetings was budgetary. He indicated that he has not had a chance to read the document from T.C. that was just handed out and he didn't know what it said but he thinks is states that this was just an arbitrary decision not to broadcast the meetings. He said he could understand if the broadcasting and study sessions that were taken away were due to the budget but indicated he would need to get back to T.C. on this as he did not know what was the document handed to him said.

Mr. Broadnax responded adding that he left off study sessions and explained that these sessions were not being discontinued but that they needed to be much more purposeful and in alignment with a work plan for the groups. He explained he took exception to the word arbitrary and stated he wouldn't use that word. He appreciated the that Board Member Sexton would have to get back to him but also indicated that the document was not for the Board's approval but was to give them an opportunity to go away and understand what we're doing differently within the Media and Communications Department. He appreciated the dialog back and forth with his decision to re-purpose and focus our efforts person to person but explained that at the end of the day it has no impact on the outcomes and/or the decision. He again stated that it was never about dollars and cents but was about a rededication of what we do. Mr. Broadnax added that he thought that there was an audio link that citizens could access through our website and said he is willing to talk with IT staff about doing that. He apologized for not getting the document to the Board in advance but indicated it has been out on the City's website for viewing for some time.

Board Member Latch stated that she is quite clear that this document is not here for their approval. She added that the original document that was shared regarding the Boards and Commissions mentioned a figure of \$25,000 and that was when we were tied with the discontinuance of broadcasting the City of Destiny Awards. She asked if in fact they were going to discontinue broadcasting the City of Destiny Awards. A discussion followed regarding staff being on comp time while covering the meetings. She added that they are a very unique board and that they are elected. They are on the ballot with City Council and she finds it very troubling that you may not feel it's arbitrary. As an elected board, she does not see how the City can justify pulling it from the air. She indicated that she does know that the City Council has talked with Mr. Broadnax's staff if not him about this question because she believes them when they relayed to her that they spoke to him about it. She indicated that while they may not have been quite as compelling as he requires, she will certainly discuss their language with them. Board Member Latch indicated that she appreciated Mr. Broadnax being her but she is frustrated as she has tried to engage his staff about the last memo but there came a time in very short order where my calls were no longer returned. She believes that the board has to answer to the voters of Tacoma and that he does not and that she does not believe this response addresses the problem. Mr. Broadnax responded that he can appreciate the information she has received and a lot of people talking with his staff but the reality is that the decision of what goes on TV Tacoma is with the administrative capacity that he has.

Board Member Kielian thanked Mr. Broadnax for being here and expressed her thanks for the re-purposing and that she does not share the same opinions of the other members of the board. She stated the mere fact that we have taken 20 minutes to discuss a decision that was made five months ago is a waste of my time as a board member and if this was televised, she would be embarrassed as a member of this board. She further stated we have more things on this agenda and added that she has seen this document previously on the City's website. Ms. Kielian stated she would like to see them move on in the agenda.

Board Member Heller indicated that she had served on the board for 18 years prior and has a different perspective. She said that there was a real transparency of government that was offered up by the meetings being televised. There were times when we packed Council Chambers with controversial issues that were

coming before the board. She also stated there were times that the meetings were like watching paint dry. Ms. Heller indicated that down the road if there were a highly controversial meeting that it may be a little bit of a risk to the City with requests and burden on staff to produce public records. She felt some sort of recording or access that citizens can view would be beneficial.

Mr. Broadnax indicated that he appreciated Ms. Heller's perspective and again stated he was not aware that there was not an audio feed for citizens to listen to. He stated he would like to see the audio there so the folks can listen along and that he would even reserve if there are those items that are highly controversial that if we could work with the board to see the schedule that we would be open to reallocate staffing to cover these. Board Member Latch added that the board has two hearings coming up that have been scheduled well in advance and it is most troubling to her that these hearings would not be broadcast. She hopes his staff will work with the Board's Coordinator to be better informed about the Board's plans. Mr. Broadnax then said he questioned even broaching that and asked to back up to just audio. He also removed and retracted what he said about televising anything. He will commit to doing the audio and leave it at that.

Board Member Sexton said he did not want anyone assigning opinions to him that he has not made. His only concern since this came up is that we were told these were budgetary issues and the reason you have not heard from him is because he was told this was a budget issue. The only thing he has been asking all along is that they be provided with the information. He added that he is happy that Board Member Heller is back and appreciated the common sense that she expressed.

Chair Summers thanked the board members for their comments and closed the discussion. She thanked Mr. Broadnax for his time and said she appreciated his decision and making this document available even though it is her pet peeve that no documents be added or presented to the board at the last minute. She expressed her agreement in that this is very unique board and asked that he look into other ways of making their airing their meetings she would appreciate that.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Summers asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2013. Board Member Sexton indicated he had a correction. He stated that page three in the HR report that he would not wish bad weather on anyone but that he did say that a strong letter would follow.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. BOARD MEMBER KIELIAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH THE CORRECTION WAS PASSED.

Communication for Information/Action:

Coordinator, Wendy Hobson shared information on the upcoming Civil Service Conference in Yakima and asked board members to review the information and let her know if they planned to attend.

Consideration of Matters Set for Public Hearing: None

Civil Service Board Coordinator Report:

Ms. Hobson reviewed calendar items reminding the board of the Termination Appeal Hearing of Myung Hee Muller coming up on October 3, 2013 and the Daniel Browitt Termination Appeal Hearing is scheduled for November 14, 2013. Board Member Sexton asked if the hearing on November 14th would be in addition to the regularly scheduled meeting in November. Ms. Hobson confirmed that the November 14th date would include both the regular meeting as well as the hearing and that there would be no meeting on November 7, 2013. It was noted that if the agenda gets too long, a second meeting will be added.

Human Resources Director Report and Requests:

Human Resources Director, Joy St. Germain reported that she had six items to bring forth this evening. Ms. St. Germain reviewed the four list extensions she had previously approved. She also noted that item E has been withdrawn by the department so that will not be before them this evening.

Ms. St. Germain then introduced Human Resources Analyst, Bob Paz to present the two requests for waiver of competitive exam. Mr. Paz presented the request for waiver of competitive examination for Daniel Cox, Computer Support Technician. Captain Howat provided additional information supporting this waiver. Ms. St. Germain added that Dylan Carlson from Local 120 was not able to be here this evening but has submitted a letter of support for this waiver.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR DANIEL COX. THE MOTION WAS NOT SECONDED.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. THE REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE EXAM WAS PASSED.

Mr. Paz then presented the request for waiver of competitive examination for Wire Electrician, Todd Fukumoto. Tony Psaris, Assistant Power Section Manager spoke in support of this waiver for Mr. Fukumoto and provided a letter written by him as he could not be here this evening.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR WIRE ELECTRICIAN TODD FUKUMOTO. BOARD MEMBER LATCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. THE REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF COMPETITIVE EXAM WAS PASSED.

Adjournment:

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. BOARD MEMBER LATCH SECONDED THE MOTION.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.


Comments by the public: None

Comments by the Board: None

Adjourn:

BOARD MEMBERS KIELIAN AND LATCH MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER HELLER. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.

ATTEST:


Beckie Summers
Civil Service Board Chair


Wendy Hobson
Civil Service Coordinator

