

## **City of Tacoma Civil Service Board MEETING MINUTES**

**Date and Time:** June 5, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Tacoma Municipal Building Council Chambers  
**Chair:** Beckie Summers  
**Coordinator:** Wendy Hobson

### **Call to Order:**

The Civil Service Board meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers of the Tacoma Municipal Building. Board Members Summers, Sexton, Heller, Kielian and Hansen were present.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 15, 2014 MEETING AS WRITTEN. BOARD MEMBER KIELIAN SECONDED THE MOTION.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.

### **Communication for Information:**

Board Coordinator Wendy Hobson advised that due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday there will be no meeting in July. The next regular board meeting will be in August.

### **Action on Matters Still Pending / New Business:**

Ms. Hobson advised that a request for an appeal has been received from Bruce Bouyer of Tacoma Fire and that he was present this evening with his attorney.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON REMINDED THE BOARD THAT BEFORE WE SET A HEARING THE BOARD WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE THE REQUEST. CHAIR SUMMERS ASKED THAT MR. BOUYER BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK.

Mr. Bouyer advised that his attorney was delayed in traffic and that he would be more comfortable if he was present.

BOARD MEMBER HANSEN ADDED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF MR. BOUYER DID NOT DISCUSS THE MERITS OF HIS CASE IN THE ABSCENSE OF THE CITY OF TACOMA'S REPRESENTATION AND HIS ATTORNEY. CHAIR SUMMERS STATED THAT WE WERE NOT THAT FAR ALONG AND THAT WE ARE SIMPLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT WE HAVE A REQUEST BEFORE US AND WE ARE SCHEDULING A HEARING.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON MOTIONED TO GRANT THE REQUEST FOR APPEAL FOR BRUCE BOUYER OF TACOMA FIRE. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER KIELIAN.

A VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. THE MOTION TO GRANT THE REQUEST FOR AN APPEAL PASSED.

CHAIR SUMMERS THEN ADVISED THAT THE NEXT ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS TO SCHEDULE A HEARING DATE. MR. BOUYER INDICATED THAT HE WAS LEAVING TONIGHT TO GO ON VACATION AND WOULD NOT BE BACK UNTIL AFTER JUNE 16<sup>TH</sup>. BOARD MEMBER HELLER ADDED THAT PERHAPS THE BOARD SHOULD WAIT UNTIL MR. BOUYER'S REPRESENTATION

ARRIVED TO SCHEDULE MIGHT BE BETTER. CHAIR SUMMERS AGREED TO WAIT UNTIL MR. BOUYER'S ATTORNEY ARRIVED.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON REQUESTED WE RETURN TO NEW BUSINESS / ACTION ON MATTERS STILL PENDING STATING HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS RESIDENCY AT OUR AUGUST MEETING. BOARD MEMBER HANSEN ADDED HE THOUGHT IT MAY BE A GOOD IDEA TO TAKE THIS UP AT A STUDY SESSION. CHAIR SUMMERS ASKED THAT THIS ITEM BE PLACED ON THE AUGUST AGENDA. BOARD MEMBER SEXTON ADDED THAT HE COULD GO EITHER WAY ON A STUDY SESSION. BOARD MEMBER HELLER ADDED THAT IT SEEMED THAT THERE WAS A CONCEPT THAT HADN'T BEEN FLUSHED OUT AND THAT IT MAY BE HELPFUL TO HAVE A STUDY SESSION TO SEE IF THE BOARD WAS ALL IN AGREEMENT ON A PARTICULAR CONCEPT. BOARD MEMBER KIELIAN ASKED IF IT WAS MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE STAFF TO PUT FORTH A RECOMMENDATION OF RESIDENCY RATHER THAN THEM LOOKING AT A VARIETY OF CONCEPTS. BOARD MEMBER HANSEN ADDED THERE WAS QUESTION ON THE MECHANISM IN WHICH TO PERSUE ENACTING A NEW PERSONNEL RULE AND THAT THE CITY CHARTER MAY ADDRESS THIS ISSUE

Jennifer Taylor stated that the charter has a residency requirement but that it has been determined to be unenforceable. She addressed Human Resources Director Ms. St. Germain adding that she may have more information on this. Director St. Germain advised that there is a timeline for the City Council to move this issue out through a couple of meetings and then out to the voters. She added that it may be a good idea to discuss at a study session what the concept might look like and the legal parameters around the issue and that she would be happy to do some work on this issue.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON QUESTIONED THE TIMELINE WITH THE CITY COUNCIL MOVING AHEAD WITH THE CHARTER REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASKED DIRECTOR ST. GERMAIN IF THE COUNCIL WOULD BE DONE BY AUGUST AS FAR AS WHAT GETS PUT ON THE BALLOT. DIRECTOR ST. GERMAIN INDICATED SHE DID NOT HAVE THE TIMELINE IN FRONT OF HER BUT THAT SHE HAD THE SCHEDULE AND COULD GET THAT TO THE BOARD RIGHT AWAY. BOARD MEMBER THEN ASKED WHAT DIRECTOR ST. GERMAIN'S OPINION WOULD BE ON WHETHER THE BOARD SHOULD WAIT UNTIL AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER. DIRECTOR ST. GERMAIN ADVISED THE CLOSER TO THE ELECTION WOULD BE BETTER. BOARD MEMBER SEXTON ASKED IF THEY COULD PUT A STUDY SESSION ON THE AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER. BOARD MEMBER KIELIAN STATED IT IS VERY CLEAR THAT UNTIL THE BOARD SEES THE ACTUAL TIMELINE THAT ANY ACTION AT THIS POINT IS PREMATURE.

CHAIR SUMMERS ASKED THAT THE ITEM BE REMOVED FROM THE AUGUST AGENDA AS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON THEN BROUGHT UP HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE BOARD NO LONGER BEING ON TV AND THINKS THE BOARD SHOULD COMMUNICATE WITH THE CITY COUNCIL AND REQUEST TO BE PUT BACK ON TV. HE FEELS IT WOULD HELP WITH TRANSPARENCY. HE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHY THE BOARD MEETINGS ARE NOT ON THE AIR.

Jennifer Taylor advised that the City Council does not have control over TV Tacoma but that it doesn't stop the board from communicating with the City Council.

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON ADDED THAT HE FEELS THE CITY COUNCIL SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY AND SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THIS. BOARD MEMBER KIELIAN SHARED THAT SHE FELT THERE WERE GREATER ISSUES TO ADDRESS RATHER THAN WE WERE ON TV OR NOT. SHE STATED THE INFORMATION IS BEING PUSHED OUT TO THE PUBLIC IN OTHER WAYS. BOARD MEMBER HELLER ADDED THAT THERE ARE OTHER OPTIONS THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE INSTEAD OF A REGULAR TV SLOT WHERE THE PUBLIC COULD VIEW THE AGENDA THAT MAY BE LESS EXPENSIVE AND COULD BE EXPLORED. BOARD MEMBER SEXTON ADDED HE FEELS IT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE BOARD TO BE ON TV AND THAT IT SHOULD BE VOICED TO THE COUNCIL. BOARD MEMBER HANSEN SHARED THAT HE HAD ISSUE WITH SOME OF THE ISSUES BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD AND THAT CITY EMPLOYEES MAY HAVE ISSUES

WITH HAVING THEIR DIRTY LAUNDRY PUT ON TV AND MAY BE RELUCTANT TO UTILIZE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS THEIR ISSUES. CHAIR SUMMERS ADVISED THAT SHE WOULD DISCUSS THIS AGAIN WITH THE CITY MANAGER AND WILL DO MORE INVESTIGATION ON THIS MATTER AND THAT IN THE FUTURE IT MAY BE TIME TO TALK TO THE COUNCIL.

CHAIR SUMMERS NOTED THAT THE ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTS MR. BOUYER HAS ARRIVED AND INVITED HIM TO SPEAK. MR. MITCHELL RIESE APOLOGIZED FOR BEING LATE AND OFFERED THE WEEK OF JULY 14<sup>TH</sup> AS A POSSIBLE DATE FOR THE HEARING. CHAIR SUMMERS ASKED IF THURSDAY, JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> WORKED FOR ALL BOARD MEMBERS. ALL BOARD MEMBERS AGREED THAT JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> WOULD BE A GOOD DATE. CHAIR SUMMERS ASKED COORDINATOR MS. HOBSON TO ADVISE THE CITY THAT IS WHAT DATE THE HEARING IS SCHEDULED.

**Consideration of matters set for public hearing:** None

**Civil Service Coordinator Report:** None

**Human Resources Director Report / Requests:** None

**Comments by the public:** None

**Comments by Board Members:**

BOARD MEMBER SEXTON STATED THAT WAS AN EXCELLENT JOB OF SCHEDULING THE HEARING BY CHAIR SUMMERS.

**Adjournment:**

BOARD MEMBER HELLER MOTIONED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION TO ADJOURN WAS SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER KIELIAN MEETING WAS ADJOURNED. THE BOARD WENT INTO A STUDY SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MEETING ADJOURNMENT.

**ATTEST:**



Beckie Summers  
Civil Service Board Chair



Wendy Hobson  
Civil Service Coordinator