



City of Tacoma Charter Review Committee Minutes

February 8, 2024
5:30 p.m.

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conference Room 243
Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 915 2560 1849
Webinar Link: <https://www.zoom.us/j/91525601849>

AMENDED

Call to Order

Chair Wamback called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Roll Call

Present: 14 – Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Silong Chhun, Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Andre Jimenez, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Stephen Wamback, and Lok Yin Wu

Absent: 1 – Diamatris Winston

Committee Members Chhun, Jimenez, Palmer, Reay, and Stith attended virtually.

The meeting recessed at 5:34 p.m. due to a technical difficulty (audio and video disruption).

The meeting reconvened at 5:57 p.m., after audio and video resumed.

Welcome

At approximately 5:57 p.m., Chair Wamback welcomed the Committee and guest speaker, reviewed the agenda, media requests, and a proposal that future Committee meetings be conducted virtually.

Public Comment

Public Comment began at 6:12 p.m.

Speaking before the Committee:

1. Allen McKenzie, speaking on police accountability and transparency, the City of

Spokane Police Department model, police oversight via ballot, and public awareness of police misconduct.

2. Donna Thompson, speaking on big city issues, form of government, City Manager accountability to voters, use of City staff to get Charter Review Committee work going, and formation of an Outreach Subcommittee.

Public Comment ended at 6:17 p.m.

Panel Discussion – Form of Government Transition Considerations and Mayor-Council Form of Government

At approximately 6:19 p.m., Chair Wamback introduced Michael Piccolo, City Attorney, City of Spokane. Piccolo provided an introduction and background of his experience working under the strong Mayor/Council form of government, serving as Council Attorney for about 14 years, where he technically reported to the City Attorney/Mayor but could independently advise the City Council on legal issues. He concluded by opening the floor for questions from the Committee.

Piccolo responded to Committee Member questions related to circumstances that require special counsel and how they are hired, power of Council Members to hire their own staff, the role of Council President, Spokane's Police Ombudsman program, full versus part-time Council Members, the Salary Commission, and the transition period from a Council/Manager to a strong Mayor/Council form of government.

Break

The meeting recessed at 7:12 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

Panel Discussion – Tacoma City Council and City Manager Structure and Operations

At approximately 7:20 p.m., Chair Wamback introduced panel discussion participants Hyun Kim, Deputy City Manager, Melanie Harding, Assistant to the City Manager, and Tory Green, Fire Chief, and noted that the panel represents the current executive branch of Tacoma's government. The panelists provided brief introductions and descriptions of their roles.

The panel responded to Committee member questions related to staffing issues, the recently completed communication study, City Council and city staff interactions and relationships, power dynamics within Tacoma's current form of government, community engagement, and public outreach.

CRC Discussion – Subcommittees

At approximately 7:52 p.m., Chair Wamback introduced a discussion on subcommittee formation, including a suggestion of how the Committee can divide into subcommittees.

MOTION: Mallott moved to adopt the formation of Public Utilities, Power of the People, Administration, and Miscellaneous Subcommittees.

SECONDED BY: Flint.

ACTION: Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted by unanimous consent.

Other Business and Homework

At approximately 8:23 p.m., Chair Wamback request that Committee Members complete the dot exercise by emailing Sonja Hallum their selections. Mallott volunteered to evaluate the boundaries of topics assigned to the four subcommittees.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Stephen Wamback, Chair



Joan Taverna, City Clerk's Office