



# City of Tacoma

## Charter Review Committee Minutes

February 26, 2024

5:30 p.m.

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Council Chambers

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID:937 7772 3122 Passcode: 267127

Webinar Link: <https://bit.ly/COT-Charter-Review-Zoom-Link-2-26-24>

### Call to Order

Chair Wamback called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

### Roll Call

**Present: 13** - Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Silong Chhun, Patrick Fischer, Bryan Flint, Andre Jimenez, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Stephen Wamback, and Diamatris Winston

**Absent: 2** – Jason Gauthier (excused) and Lok Yin Wu (excused)

Committee Members Chhun, Jimenez, and Winston participated virtually.

### Welcome

At approximately 5:46 p.m., Chair Wamback began the meeting by giving instructions on the room set up to the Committee members. He presented the plan for tonight's extended public comment event.

### Break

The meeting recessed at 5:49 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m.

### Public Comment

At approximately 6:00 p.m., the Charter Review Committee (CRC) made brief introductions of the Committee Members who were present at the meeting. Chair Wamback and Committee Member Malott briefly presented the work the Committee has reviewed so far with regards to form of government and City Council issues. A representative from each of the five Subcommittees presented a brief description of the topics the Subcommittees are tackling.

Public Comment began at 6:15 p.m.

Speaking before the Committee:

1. Jean Homan Dunn, spoke in favor of Tacoma's current form of government, the possible disadvantage of having full-time Council, and possible legal ramifications of changing the Charter language of "shall" to "will".
2. Oneida Arnold, spoke in favor of a strong Mayor/Council form of government, homeless epidemic in the city, and lack of oversight in the Council/Manager form of government.
3. Ann Dorn, spoke on police accountability, Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) recommendation ignored by the city, and favors a full-time Council.
4. Barb Church, spoke in favor of a full-time Council, environmental issues in the city, lack of transparency in government, in favor of CPAC/police oversight and homelessness in the city.
5. Allen McKenzie, spoke in favor of civilian oversight of the Tacoma Police Department and urged the Committee to think of how to fund the civilian oversight body, if formed.
6. Jenda Kong, commended the Committee's outreach efforts to include non-English speakers to the discussion.
7. Jhema Lucas, spoke on the difficulty of starting a business in the city and attaining business permits, and thanked the Committee's efforts to be as inclusive as possible.

Following the in-person comments from the Chamber, Chair Wamback proceeded by checking if anyone requested to make a public comment from any of the rooms where translation is being held. No public comment was heard from Room 243 (Cambodian/Khmer) nor Room 138 (Spanish).

Speaking before the Committee from Room 148 (Vietnamese):

1. Kelvin Hoang, thanked the Committee for including the Vietnamese community in the CRC's discussion.

Chair then proceeded to check if anyone virtually wished to make public comment that requires translation in any of the languages offered at the meeting, which were Spanish, Vietnamese and Cambodian/Khmer.

Speaking before the Committee virtually:

1. Courtney Davis, spoke in support for a Mayor/Council form of government, support plain language changes in the Charter, formation of Urban Forrest Commission, and full-time Council.
2. April Smith, spoke in support of the Mayor/Council form of government and full-time Council.
3. Heidi Stephens, spoke on needing clear instruction of where to submit written comment, Tacoma City Charter Sections 2.9, 2.10, 2.13, 3.1, 3.8, 3.11, 3.13, 4.2, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.23, 6.3, 6.9, and 9.1, in favor of rank choice voting, citizen oversight of police, and land sale of waterfront property should be brought to the people.
4. Lester Pogue, spoke in support of everything Heidi Stephens provided, the loss of Council public comment portion, zoning changes should have more public input, supports a Mayor/Council form, full-time Council, support strengthening CPAC,

waterfront property be given back to the Puyallup Tribe, and public participation should be counted more than once.

5. Stacy Oaks, spoke on submission of public comments that were not received by the Committee, support rank choice voting, full-time Council and staff, Planning Committee recommendations shouldn't be easily dismissed, public comment portion in Council Meeting shorten and that people don't feel heard or respected, and their health and safety not prioritized in the current form of government.
6. Joy, spoke on raising questions to the difference between forming a Climate Commission versus Sustainable Commission, forming a Police Commission versus CPAC, and in support of plain language Charter.

Public Comment was suspended at 7:08 p.m.

## **Break**

The meeting recessed at 7:08 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

## **CRC Discussion**

At approximately 7:20 p.m., Chair Wamback reconvened the meeting and opened the floor for the Committee to address some of the issues mentioned during the public comment portion of the meeting. Discussion ensued regarding CPAC, sale of waterfront properties, and a Climate/Sustainability Commission.

Committee Members then proceeded to thank the community for their participation and encourage them to continue to engage as the Charter Review Committee continues their work.

## **Other Business and Homework**

At approximately 7:35 p.m., Chair Wamback moved on to discuss the Committee's work schedule and timeline. The Committee discussed plans and alternatives on how to tackle subcommittee work, reporting back to Committee as a Whole, minority report consideration, and drafting and report writing that fits within the timeframe the Committee has left.

Chair Wamback briefly checked if any member of the public wished to make a comment who may have joined virtually or arrived in person during the latter part of the meeting.

## **Public Comment (continued)**

Public Comment reopened at 8:08 p.m.

Speaking before the Committee virtually:


1. Lester Pogue, asked on the response process to comments made by the public to the Charter Review Committee.

Public Comment ended at 8:10 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding providing responses to questions asked during the public comment period. Committee Members Carr and Palmer encouraged continued public engagement via email which is available through the City's website.

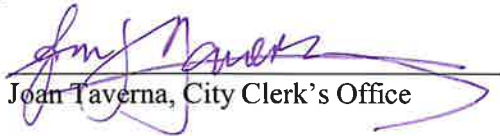
## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



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Stephen Wamback, Chair



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Joan Taverna, City Clerk's Office