



City of Tacoma

Charter Review Committee Minutes

January 29, 2024

5:30 p.m.

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Conference Room 220A

Dial: 253-215-8782 Meeting ID: 857 9094 1184

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/85790941184

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Present: 12 – Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Maricres Castro, Silong Chhun, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Andre Jimenez, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, Stephen Wamback, and Lok Yin Wu

Absent: 3 – Patrick Fischer, Melissa Malott, and Diamatris Winston

Committee Member Malott arrived at 5:35 p.m. Committee Members Fischer and Winston arrived at 5:48 p.m.

All Committee Members participated virtually.

Committee Member Malott arrived here, at 5:35 p.m.

Welcome

At approximately 5:37 p.m., Chair Wamback requested that Committee Members clearly state their top priorities with regards to changes or updates they would like to make on the Charter and send their selection to Chair or staff.

Public Comment

Public Comment began at 5:40 p.m.

Speaking before the Committee:

1. Rain Booker, regarding the strong mayor form of government, and full or part-time City

Council Members with staff, and Council District constituency.

2. Allen McKenzie, regarding the strong mayor form of government, City Council issues, and the lack of transparency and accountability in the city manager form of government.

Chair Wamback stated one public comment was received via email from Jason Van Cleese regarding the virtual meeting format.

Public Comment ended at 5:47 p.m.

Committee Members Fischer and Winston arrived here, at 5:48 p.m.

Form of Government Presentation

At approximately 5:49 p.m., Sheila Gall, General Counsel, Association of Washington Cities (AWC), presented on form of government, including a brief history of AWC, basic information on services offered to the public and city governmental functions in other Washington cities, different city classifications and forms of government, separation of power between the different forms of city branches, characteristics, trends from other cities, and the pros and cons of the different forms of government.

Discussion ensued regarding AWC’s available resources for Washington elected officials, a hybrid form of government, public utilities, prequalification criteria for city managers, policy versus administration, and the difference between a resolution and an ordinance.

City of Tacoma Government Structure

At approximately 6:50 p.m., Martha Lantz, Deputy City Attorney, City Attorney’s Office, presented on the City of Tacoma’s government structure, including the current form of government; roles and responsibilities of the City Manager, Mayor, and City Council within the framework of current form of government; Tacoma Public Utilities; and the Civil Service Board.

Break

The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

Charter Review Committee Discussion

At approximately 7:40 p.m., Sonja Hallum, Executive Liaison, provided an update on her work to invite a variety of subject matter experts to speak to the Committee. Chair Wamback and Hallum continued to encourage Committee Members to send suggestion on who they would like

to hear from.

Chair Wamback proposed that for the next meeting, the Committee would discuss and identify ideas on the different forms of government so when a speakers or panels attend, those ideas can be shared with them to solicit reactions, opinions, experiences, or expertise.

Communications Discussion

At approximately 8:04 p.m., Reay reported on the results of the first Public Outreach Subcommittee meeting. The Subcommittee discussed and agreed on the text of the communication piece which the Committee can distribute in a variety of formats. The Subcommittee discussed the addition of a QR code, translation options, and advertisements for maximum public engagement and accessibility.

Chair Wamback then opened the floor to the Committee for location suggestions. The Committee requested City staff to provide possible location options by the next meeting on February 1, 2024.

Other Business/Homework

At approximately 8:31 p.m., Chair Wamback again reminded all Committee Member to submit their Charter requests in order of priority to him or Sonja by February 2, 2024.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.


Stephen Wamback, Chair


Joan Taverna, City Clerk's Office