

City of Tacoma

Charter Review Committee

March 21, 2024
5:30 p.m.

Tacoma Municipal Building, 747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

AGENDA

1. **Call To Order**
Roll Call
2. **Welcome**
3. **Approval of Minutes**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Administration Subcommittee Report – Action Item**
 - Climate Commission
 - City Attorney
 - Other Recommendations
6. **Form of Government Subcommittee Report – Action Item**
 - Transition
 - Other Recommendations
7. **Other Recommendations – Action Item***
 - Sec. 3.8 – Planning Commission
 - Sec. 2.6 – Full time Council
 - Sec. 2.3 – Salary Commission
8. **Other Subcommittee Reports and Discussion**
9. **Staff Update**
10. **Other Business/Homework**
11. **Adjourn**

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Sec. 3.8 – Option 1

Charter Review Committee

Recommendation Summary

Brief Summary of Amendment:

The amendment does the following:

- Increases the membership of the Planning Commission from 9 to 11.
- Changes the membership of the Planning Commission to add an alternative to the development community position to include a business representative; clarifies the environmental community representative must have experience in environmental sustainability; adds members with experience in affordable housing and public health; and clarifies the member may have experience in architecture, historic preservation or urban design rather than “and/or” urban design.
- Eliminates the Charter prohibition on Planning Commission members receiving pay.

Committee Activity:

Insert date of vote and voting record for approval of recommendation

Amendment:

Section 3.8 – There shall be a Planning Commission, composed of ~~nine (9)~~ eleven (11) members, with such powers and duties as are provided by ordinance. The ~~nine~~ eleven members shall be residents of the City of Tacoma and be appointed and confirmed by the City Council for terms of three (3) years each. One member shall be appointed by the City Council for each of the five council districts. The Council shall appoint to the ~~four~~ six remaining positions ~~an individual from each of the~~ with the following experience or expertise:

- (a) the business or development community;
- (b) ~~the environmental community~~ sustainability;
- (c) public transportation, ~~and~~
- (d) affordable housing;
- (e) public health; and
- (f) ~~a designee with background of involvement in~~ architecture, historic preservation, ~~and/or~~ urban design.

A majority of the voting members of such Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Commission shall be authorized to adopt rules for the transaction of business not inconsistent with this charter or ordinances of the City of Tacoma. ~~Said Planning Commission members shall serve without pay.~~

Rationale for Amendment:

Insert summary of CRC rationale for the amendment

Dissenting Position(s):

Insert summary of CRC dissenting opinion

DRAFT

Sec. 3.8 – Option 2

Charter Review Committee

Recommendation Summary

Brief Summary of Amendment:

The amendment does the following:

- Increases the membership of the Planning Commission from 9 to 11.
- Changes the composition of the Planning Commission to require diversity of membership.
- Changes the six positions that are not appointed to represent a district to general appointments that provide more flexibility and diversity of appointments. The six positions should be filled with members with diverse experience and provides a list of potential membership expertise.
- Eliminates the Charter prohibition on Planning Commission members receiving pay.

Committee Activity:

Insert date of vote and voting record for approval of recommendation

Amendment:

Section 3.8 – There shall be a Planning Commission, composed of ~~nine (9)~~ eleven (11) members, with such powers and duties as are provided by ordinance. The ~~nine~~ eleven members shall be residents of the City of Tacoma and be appointed and confirmed by the City Council for terms of three (3) years each.

The Council must ensure the appointments provide for diversity of planning commission members. The diversity should include race, ethnicity, gender, backgrounds, experiences, and expertise and must not be over-represented in any areas of expertise or experience. The membership of the commission shall include ~~One member shall be appointed by the City Council for each of the five council districts and the Council shall appoint to the four~~six ~~remaining positions an individual from each of the members appointed by the Council with experience that may include, but is not limited to, the following:~~

- (a) the development community;
- (b) the environmental community, including environmental sustainability;
- (c) public transportation, ~~and~~
- (d) ~~a designee with background of involvement in architecture, or historic preservation, and/or;~~
- (e) urban design;

(f) affordable housing;

(g) public health; or

(h) the business community.

A majority of the voting members of such Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The Commission shall be authorized to adopt rules for the transaction of business not inconsistent with this charter or ordinances of the City of Tacoma. ~~Said Planning Commission members shall serve without pay.~~

Rationale for Amendment:

Insert summary of CRC rationale for the amendment

Dissenting Position(s):

Insert summary of CRC dissenting opinion

DRAFT

Section 2.3

Charter Review Committee

Recommendation Summary

Brief Summary of Amendment:

This amendment does the following:

- Changes the Salary Commission procedure to align with the requirements of RCW 35.21.015.

Committee Activity:

Insert date of vote and voting record for approval of recommendation

Amendment:

Section 2.3 – A Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries will determine the compensation and salary of the Mayor and each Council Member. The Commission shall set the salary and any salary changes for the Mayor and Council Members. ~~The salary and any salary changes set by the Commission shall be adopted by the City Council.~~ Any change in salary shall be filed by the Commission with the city Clerk and shall become effective and incorporated into the City budget without further action of the City Council or Salary Commission.

(a) The Salary Commission shall consist of seven members appointed as follows:

- (1) Five of the seven Commission members shall be selected by lot by the County Auditor from among those registered City of Tacoma voters eligible to vote at the time the persons are selected for appointment to the Commission. There shall be one member selected from each of the City's Council districts. The Auditor shall establish policies and procedures for conducting the selection by lot to be forwarded to the City Council for appointment.
- (2) The remaining two of the seven Commission members must be residents of the City of Tacoma and shall be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. One person shall have experience in human resource management. The second person shall have experience in the legal profession.

(b) Members of the Commission may not include any public office holder, filed candidate for public office, officer, official or employee of the City of Tacoma or any of their immediate family members. For the purpose of this section, the phrase "immediate family member" means the parents, spouse, siblings, children or dependent relative of any officer, official or employee whether or not living in the household of the officer, official or employee.

(c) The terms of the Commission shall be as follows:

- (1) The terms of office for the members shall be three years, except initial appointment to the Commission shall be for the following terms:

- (2) For the members selected by lot by the Auditor, two shall be appointed to serve a one-year term, two shall be appointed to a two-year term, and the remaining member shall be appointed to serve a three-year term.
- (3) For the members selected by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council, one shall serve a one-year term and one shall serve a three-year term.
- (d) Upon a vacancy in any position on the Commission, a successor shall be selected and appointed to fill the unexpired term in the same manner as outlined in this section.

The Commission shall meet each year beginning in 2015 in one or more regular or special meetings to carry out its duties set forth in this section. Determinations for any change in the salaries of these elected officials shall be filed with the City Clerk and transmitted to the Council for adoption no later than September 1 of the calendar year.

Rationale for Amendment:

Insert summary of CRC rationale for the amendment

Dissenting Position(s):

Insert summary of CRC dissenting opinion

New Section XXX (in Article II)

Charter Review Committee

Recommendation Summary

Brief Summary of Amendment:

This Amendment adds a new section to Article 2II (The Legislative Branch) of Charter order to:

- Confirm Councilmembers serve on a full-time basis.
- Authorize Council to employ or contract for personnel to advise the Council.

Committee Activity:

Insert date of vote and voting record for approval of recommendation

Amendment:

Section XXX – The Council shall serve on a full-time basis and shall have the authority to employ or contract for personnel to advise the Council.

Rationale for Amendment:

Insert summary of CRC rationale for the amendment

Dissenting Position(s):

Insert summary of CRC dissenting opinion

Section 2.35

Charter Review Committee

Recommendation Summary

Brief Summary of Amendment:

The amendment does the following:

- Allows the possibility to serve three full consecutive terms on the Council and two full consecutive terms as Mayor.

Committee Activity:

Insert date of vote and voting record for approval of recommendation

Amendment:

Section 2.35 – No person shall be allowed to serve on the Council or as Mayor for more than ~~ten (10)~~ three (3) full consecutive consecutive years, ~~either as a Council Member, Mayor, or combination thereof~~ terms on the Council and 2 (two) full consecutive terms as Mayor.

Rationale for Amendment:

Insert summary of CRC rationale for the amendment

Dissenting Position(s):

Insert summary of CRC dissenting opinion