



City of Tacoma
Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries

Terry Mensonides, Chair
Ronald Malm, Vice Chair
Robert Anderson
Dianne Conway
Karen Robinson
Richard Wilkinson
Joseph Zawacki

MINUTES

TIME: Monday, August 3, 2015, 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: 733 Market Street, Room 12, Tacoma, WA 98402
PRESENT: Mensonides, Malm, Anderson, Conway, Robinson, Wilkinson, Zawacki;
Guests: Doris Sorum, City Clerk and Jennifer Taylor, Deputy
City Attorney

ABSENT (EXCUSED): None

Call to Order

At approximately 6:01 p.m., Doris Sorum, City Clerk, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call/Introductions of Committee Members

At approximately 6:01 p.m., Dianne Conway began the introductions. Ms. Conway is an attorney at Gordon Thomas Honeywell; Richard Wilkinson is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources (HR) and Organizational Development at University Washington Tacoma; Terry Mensonides is a Certified Public Accountant at McGranaham Architects and has a small practice of his own; Ron Malm is a Chemical Dependency Professional at Metropolitan Development Council; Robert Anderson is a Chemical Recovery Boiler Operator at West Rock; Karen Robinson is retired, previously worked at Xerox and the Lottery in Olympia; Joe Zawacki has a small business that he's run for 10 years, "moonlights" for Olympic Hot Tub Company as supervisor of their Commerce Department and serves on the Foss Waterway Development Authority Board and Tacoma Farmer's Market Board. Jennifer Taylor, Deputy City Attorney with the City Attorney's Office, introduced herself, she joined the meeting to cover the Open Public Meetings Act and cover public disclosure rules; and Marisa Tetreault, HR Specialist with the City of Tacoma, Commission Liaison.

Select a Commission Chair and Vice Chair

At approximately, 6:05 p.m., Ms. Sorum asked for nominations for Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission and explained what the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair are. Terry Mensonides volunteered to be the Chair of the Commission. Seconded by Mr. Wilkinson. Voice vote was taken and carried, determining Terry Mensonides as Chair of the Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries.

At approximately, 6:07 p.m., Ronald Malm was nominated as Vice Chair of the Commission. Seconded by Ms. Conway. Voice vote was taken and carried, determining Ronald Malm as Vice Chair of the Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries.

At this point, Ms. Sorum turned the meeting over to Chair Mensonides.

Ground Rules and Procedures for Operations

At approximately 6:08 p.m., Ms. Sorum asked everyone to look at the Ground Rules provided to each Commission member and explained what they were, asked the Commission members to

review the Ground Rules provided and to bring back any thoughts or additions to the next Commission meeting for discussion.

Open Public Meetings Act, E-mail Retention and Public Disclosure

At approximately 6:09 p.m., Ms. Taylor presented on the Open Public Meetings Act, e-mail retention and public disclosure (the Public Records Act) rules.

Future Meeting Dates

At approximately 6:28 p.m., Ms. Sorum introduced the next topic of Future Meeting Dates. The first report is due to the City Council on September 1, 2015. Discussion ensued regarding what type of information the Commission may need to compile their first report.

At approximately 6:32 p.m., Mr. Wilkinson asked what the recommendation being asked for is, if that was described anywhere.

At approximately 6:33 p.m., Chair Mensonides suggested discussing the future meeting dates after a discussion regarding the salary information.

Discussion of Mayor and City Council Salaries

At approximately 6:33 p.m., discussion ensued regarding background information on City Council salaries in comparable cities and other local municipalities. There is a current Ordinance that states the City Council gets a 2.75% annual raise. Discussion ensued regarding a handout with Council and Mayor salaries in other local municipalities.

The Commission asked for staff to look in to several topics to give them more information before making a recommendation. Mr. Wilkinson asked if the US Conference of Mayors or ICMA has any ideas on setting elected official salaries. Discussion ensued. Ms. Conway asked what City of Tacoma employees receive generally for raises and when. Discussion ensued. Mr. Zawacki asked what the elected officials' salaries are compared to the median income for the citizen's of Tacoma. Mr. Wilkinson asked if there is any subset of cities that Tacoma normally compares themselves with.

At approximately 6:47 p.m., Ms. Conway suggested meeting next Monday, August 10, 2015. Discussion ensued. Chair Mensonides said that he could meet Tuesdays through August.

At approximately 6:49 p.m., Chair Mensonides asked if there is a format that the report needs to be in. Discussion ensued.

At approximately 6:50 p.m., Mr. Zawacki suggested meeting at 6:00 p.m. to accommodate any potential public participation.

At approximately 6:51 p.m., Ms. Conway moved to meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays – August 11, 18 and 25, 2015. Seconded by Mr. Zawacki. Ms. Sorum advised that Tuesdays would be regular meetings and any additional meetings would be special meetings. Discussion ensued. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

At approximately 6:56 p.m., Mr. Zawacki suggested moving the Public Comment to be at the beginning of the meeting (after Roll Call). Discussion ensued. Public Comment time was decided to be three minutes per commentor.

At approximately 7:02 p.m., Mr. Anderson moved to limit meetings to 90 minutes. Seconded by Ms. Robinson. Discussion ensued. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

The Commission asked for a comparison of City/County median income for citizens for comparable cities. Discussion ensued.

The Commission recapped which items they'd like staff to gather further information on for them and discussed the format of what they'd like their final report to the City Council be in.

Public Comment

Public comment was heard from Sherry Bockwinkel.

Commission Comments

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.



Terry Mensorides, Chair



Marisa Tetreault, HR Specialist, Human Resources