



Charter Review

Legislative Subcommittee Special Meeting Minutes

Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 12

www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview

March 5, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

Convener Leighton called the special meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 6 – Brackett, Hahn, Leighton (participating telephonically), Merritt (representing Baarsma), Talton (arrived at 5:48 p.m.) and Van Dyk.

Committee Members Excused Absence: 1 – Farrell

Select a Committee Chair

Committee Member Hahn moved to nominate Committee Member Leighton as the Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee. Seconded by Committee Member Brackett. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted. Committee Member Leighton will serve as Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee.

Committee Member Hahn moved to nominate Council Member Van Dyk to serve as Vice Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee. Seconded by Committee Member Brackett. Voice Vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted. Committee Member VanDyk will serve as Vice Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee.

Chair Leighton requested Vice Chair VanDyk to facilitate the remainder of the meeting since he was in the room and could see cues of Committee Members wishing to speak.

Set a Regular Time to Meet

Committee Member Hahn moved to set regular meetings of the Legislative Subcommittee every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Committee Member Brackett. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

(Committee Member Talton arrived here at 5:50 p.m.)





2014 TACOMA CHARTER REVIEW A LOOK AT HOW YOUR CITY WORKS

Justin Leighton – Bill Baarsma – Gary Brackett – Tim Farrell – Eric Hahn – Patricia Talton – Justin Van Dyk

Review List of Recommendations

The Subcommittee discussed different ways to review Article II of the City Charter such as: looking at the recommendations and establishing criteria, working in teams, grouping similar recommendations together, looking at the list as issues instead of recommendations, including the pros and cons of each issue, looking at the Charter paragraph by paragraph and using what are the attributes, what are the benefits and what are the challenges method of review.

Committee Member Hahn discussed looking at issues without using modifiers.

Chair Leighton suggested using the ten Sections in the table of contents in the City Charter, place the recommendations under the appropriate Sections, and then add the Subcommittees ideas to the list using pro and con statements along with criteria and coming up with a basis to begin the review of Article II. Mr. Leighton suggested using the University of Puget Sound student to help with research. Discussion ensued using Chair Leighton's method of review.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for completion of the work by the Subcommittee and whether or not the Subcommittee should have two options available, one for the Council/Manager form of government and another for a Mayor/Council form of government. Mr. Merrit stated that, if the Subcommittee comes forward with specific recommendations, they should include good compelling reasons, including the negatives and positives and what part of the criteria was fulfilled with the decision. Chair Leighton summed up the discussion stating the Legislative Subcommittee would look at Article II with the existing form of government. Chair Leighton discussed the outcomes for the meeting stating he would like to have a game plan for the next three weeks and how to get it done.

At 6:00 p.m. Committee Member Farrell arrived and Committee Member Hahn left to attend the Administrative Subcommittee meeting.

The Subcommittee discussed using the table of contents or dividing the recommendations up into groups the way as ways to study Article II. Member Brackett reviewed the discussion stating that the recommendations could be divided up into groups or use the table of contents for Article II. Mr. Merritt stated that using that method would be very responsive. Mr. Brackett continued discussion stating if that's the selected first step then each section can be research and debated and then determine whether a recommendation was needed. Discussion ensued regarding criteria. Committee Member Talton discussed using effectiveness and fiscal impact as criteria. Discussion ensued using more broad criteria and strategic visioning.

Chair Leighton reviewed the discussion stating that by next week's meeting each Subcommittee member review the recommendations and use three to five Criteria statements and come up with a list for the Subcommittee to review. He then reviewed the criteria.



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Legislative Subcommittee Criteria

- A. Responsiveness to the citizens – Is the topic current?
- B. Effectiveness – Is the recommendation going to be effective?
- C. Fiscal Impact – Is the fiscal impact reasonable and sustainable?
- D. Does the system we have now work? If not why?
- E. Independent decision making?
- F. Accountable to the Charter – Intent of the Citizens

Chair Leighton stated the Subcommittee would use the lists as part of the screeners to toss out the areas that would not be reviewed. He stated the Subcommittee would review the recommendations and determined which sections of the Article to place them in. Chair Leighton stated the Subcommittee could start building pros and cons statement. Committee Member Talton discussed housekeeping versus intent driven in terms of the recommendations. Discussion continued regarding the review of the Article and the recommendations.

Public Comment

None.

Committee Comments

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Doris Sorum, City Clerk

Justin Leighton, Chair

