Chair Leighton called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 6 – Brackett, Farrell (joined telephonically at 6:17 p.m.), Hahn (telephonically), Leighton, Merritt, and Van Dyk.

Committee Members Excused Absence: 1 – Talton.

Approval of the March 5, 2014 Minutes
Chair Leighton stated approval of the minutes will be held over to the next meeting.

Introduction of University of Puget Sound Interns
Chair Leighton introduced Max DeLawyer, an intern from the University of Puget Sound. Mr. DeLawyer stated he is an economic major, math minor, and he is interested in urban studies.

Discussion and decide section in Article II that will not be reviewed.
Chair Leighton then stated the first item of business is to decide what sections of Article II will not be reviewed. He briefly reviewed recommendations that he had already condensed and categorized, including moratorium language regarding publishing, directors confirmed by the City Council; City Council staff, districts, term limits, serving full-time or part-time, support staff, and compensation; and the initiative process. He then recommended the Committee work through the remainder of the recommendations categorized for the Legislative Subcommittee and that the Committee then take the opportunity to determine if they have additional suggestions to add to the list. Committee Member Brackett stated the recommendations from Pierce County Auditor Julie Anderson are already being looked into by the Administrative or Human Resources Subcommittee as housekeeping items and suggested deferring those items to that Subcommittee.

Chair Leighton suggested moving to item 6 on the agenda at this time, and deciding where the recommendations fit in Article II to better determine what will not be reviewed.
Review list of recommendation and decide where they fit in Article II
Committee Member Merritt suggested tying each recommendation to a section in Article II. Committee Members continued categorizing the list of recommendations, adding having the term limit contain all positions served, the vacancy process, the referendum process, and other elected positions.

Chair Leighton stated the recommendations were condensed into 13 topics and then Committee members discussed what section of Article II each topic fit into. Discussion ensued regarding whether to leave the Pierce County Auditor’s recommendations in this Subcommittee or defer it to the Human Resources Subcommittee. The Subcommittee determined they wanted to review vacancies and holding other election positions and all of the Auditor’s recommendations should be reviewed by the Human Resources Subcommittee, but noted there may be some overlap.

The 13 recommendations and associated sections for review are:

1. Moratorium-publishing (2.13)
2. Directors confirmed by Council (Not currently in Charter, suggested to fall under Procedures 2.8-2.10 and may require a new section)
3. Council staff/attorney (Not currently in Charter, suggested to fall under Procedures 2.8-2.10 and may require a new section)
4. Term limits (2.35)
5. Part-Time/Full-time Council and compensation (2.3)
6. Districts/At-Large (2.1 and 2.2)
7. Initiative amendments to have Council amend them prior to submittal or after 2 years (2.19 and 2.20)
8. Council meeting times required (2.8)
9. Residency/How long someone has to live in the City or district prior to running for office (2.2)
10. Vacancies (2.7)
11. Initiative Process (2.19 and 2.20)
12. Referendum Process (2.19 and 2.20)
13. Other elected positions (2.2)

Discussion ensued regarding what categories that did not have explicit recommendations and if the Committee wanted to review them, which included the Mayor, Removal from or Forfeiture of Office, some sections within Procedures of the Council, Compilation and Codification of Ordinances, Penalties for Non-compliance with Ordinances, and some sections within Powers of the People. The Subcommittee determined they wanted to review the Mayor and Section 2.25, review of the City Charter, but opted to place sections that are set by or reference state law as a low priority. Brief discussion ensued regarding a Charter Review Committee and freeholders. Committee Member Farrell suggested also looking into public comment and public process within the Charter. Committee Member Merritt discussed Spokane’s inclusion of the Neighborhood Councils within the Charter and suggested reviewing Spokane’s City Charter, as well as the number of Council Members and district representation.
Review and finalize recommendations using three to five criteria statements.
Chair Leighton stated the next item is making sure the Subcommittee is in agreement with the Subcommittee criteria:
   A) Responsiveness to the citizens – is the topic current
   B) Effectiveness – is the recommendations going to be effective?
   C) Fiscal impact
   D) Does the system we have now work? If not, why?
   E) Independent decision making
   F) Accountable to the Charter – intent of the citizens

Committee Member Merritt suggested defining fiscal impact as if the change will cost more or less than what is currently done, and is it the most cost effective and responsive way for providing service to the citizens. Discussion ensued regarding cost versus value.

Chair Leighton stated Committee Members may have differing opinions on priorities, and asked how to start determining recommendations. Committee Member Van Dyk stated in other Subcommittees each member took different sections and agreed to do the research and report back. Committee Member Hahn suggested a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis or a similar means as an objective means of looking at the recommendations. Committee Member Brackett stated the options are to do a lot of work and research on everything and then prioritize, or prioritize first and then do the work on those things that mean most to the group, noting he prefers the latter course. Committee Member Brackett suggested listing all the pros and cons of an issue to bring back to the Subcommittee.
Chair Leighton noted that would need to be pros and cons of each alternative to each issue and suggested a hybrid approach to prioritize some of these issues. Committee Member Merritt stated he does not want to do an exhaustive research project, but does agree on a pros and cons list for each subject to bring back for the full Subcommittee to analyze.

The Subcommittee opted to break down the recommendations and to have everyone take a look at the Mayor section to determine if any recommendations or additional review is needed.

The recommendation assignments are:
1. Moratorium-publishing (2.13) Justin Leighton
2. Directors confirmed by Council (Not currently in Charter, suggested to fall under Procedures 2.8-2.10 and may require a new section) Gary Brackett
3. Council staff/attorney (Not currently in Charter, suggested to fall under Procedures 2.8-2.10 and may require a new section) Gary Brackett and Tim Farrell
4. Term limits (2.35) Justin Van Dyk and Eric Hahn
5. Part-Time/Full-time Council and compensation (2.3) Justin Leighton and Tim Farrell
6. Districts/At-Large (2.1 and 2.2) Jim Merritt
7. Initiative amendments to have Council amend them prior to submittal or after 2 years (2.19 and 2.20) Tim Farrell and Justin Leighton
8. Council meeting times required (2.8) Justin Van Dyk
9. Residency/How long someone has to live in the City or district prior to running for office (2.2) Eric Hahn
10. Vacancies (2.7) Justin Van Dyk
11. Initiative Process (2.19 and 2.20) Tim Farrell and Justin Leighton/Human Resources Subcommittee
12. Referendum Process (2.19 and 2.20) Tim Farrell and Justin Leighton/Human Resources Subcommittee
13. Other elected positions (2.2) Tim Farrell

Discussion continued regarding Neighborhood Councils and, if included in the Charter, would it fit into the Legislative section, or would it fit in with the other Committee, Commissions, and Boards. The issue was assigned to Committee Member Merritt for review.

Begin building pro and con statements for recommendations
The Subcommittee members will do this as part of their homework for the issues as assigned above.

Public Comment
None.

Committee Comments
Chair Leighton stated the next meeting is Wednesday, March 19, 2014. Committee Member Merritt stated he may not be available for the meeting. Chair Leighton stated there are two meetings left for the Subcommittee.

Adjournment
On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Justin Leighton, Chair

Doris Sorum, City Clerk