



# Charter Review

## Public Utilities Subcommittee Minutes

Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 12  
[www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview)

March 20, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.

Chair Martinez called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 6 – Baker, Brackett, Farrell (participated telephonically), Horne (arrived at 6:16 p.m.), Leighton, and Chair Martinez.

Committee Members Excused Absence: 1 – Miller

### Approval of the minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2014

Committee Member Baker moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 6, 2014. Seconded by Committee Member Leighton. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

### Select a Vice Chair

Committee Member Leighton moved to nominate Committee Member Farrell as Vice Chair. Seconded by Committee Member Baker. Voice vote was taken and carried. The motion was declared adopted.

### Prioritize recommendations

At approximately 5:35 p.m., Chair Martinez began a discussion regarding prioritizing recommendations. Discussion ensued regarding recommendations, including clarifying some recommendations. Mr. Robert Mack, Deputy Director of Public Affairs, gave clarification regarding franchise agreements.

At approximately 5:46 p.m., Committee Member Leighton spoke about an email request from Public Utility Board Member Flynn regarding calling out internet as a service to be provided.

Discussion ensued.

### Priority groupings and assignments

At approximately 5:52 p.m., Chair Martinez asked who would like to cover which topics for studying. Discussion ensued regarding topics to be researched



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Mark Martinez (Chair) – Terri Baker – Gary Brackett – Tim Farrell – Charles Horne – Justin Leighton – Ken Miller

The research topic list was selected and assigned as follows:

Group A	Organization	Farrell, Miller, Brackett
Group B	Council Authority	Miller, Horne
Group C	Accountability	Martinez, Horne
Group D	Board Governance	Baker, Leighton
Group E	Functions	Leighton, Farrell

Chair Martinez asked Committee Members to research their topics and be ready to discuss said topics at the next meeting. Topics and schedules for future meetings were discussed.

### **Board governance**

At approximately 6:03 p.m., Committee Member Leighton suggested discussion of Board governance. Committee Member Baker had a recommendation for outside representation on the Utility Board. Committee Members asked Mr. Mack various questions regarding Tacoma Public Utilities services outside of the City of Tacoma. Discussion ensued regarding representation within the entire service area, franchises, and ex officio representation.

Committee Member Horne arrived here, at 6:16 p.m.

At approximately 6:19 p.m., Committee Member Horne asked about the “tentacles of the government” and government regulations. Mr. Michael P. Slevin III, P.E., Environmental Services Director, and Mr. Mack answered Committee Member Horne’s questions. Discussion ensued regarding outside representation on the Public Utility Board.

At approximately 6:24 p.m., Committee Member Baker asked the committee what their thoughts were on the terms for the Public Utility Board. Discussion ensued.

At approximately 6:33 p.m., Committee Member Leighton reviewed the current Utility Board structure of five members. Discussion ensued regarding membership.

At approximately 6:41 p.m., Chair Martinez asked if the committee would like to extend their meeting next week, March 27, 2014, for an extra hour (5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.). That was agreed upon.

### **City Council Approval of TPU Director**

At approximately 6:43 p.m., Committee Member Leighton stated there was a suggestion that the City Council ratify the appointment of the Tacoma Public Utilities Director, with reaffirmation every four years. Discussion ensued. Chair Martinez asked Mr. Mack about how the Utilities Director is reviewed. Mr. Mack explained how performance reviews for the Director and management review of Tacoma Public Utilities are structured. Discussion ensued.



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### Public Comment

None.

### Committee Comments

At approximately 7:02 p.m., Committee Member Horne asked about legal representation for Tacoma Public Utilities and the Environmental Services Department. Mr. Slevin and Mr. Mack stated legal representation is provided from the City Attorney's Office.

At approximately 7:04 p.m., Committee Member Brackett asked to confirm who was in Group A for priority groupings and assignments.

### Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Mark Martinez, Chair

Marisa Tetreault, Administrative Assistant, Public Works