



Charter Review Committee Minutes

February 12, 2014

Chair Baarsma called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Committee Members Present: 14 Baker, Brackett, Edmonds, Farrell, Hahn, Horne, Leighton, Merritt, Messina, Miller, Talton, Ushka, Van Dyk and Chair Baarsma.

Committee Members Excused Absence: 1 Martinez

Approval of the February 10, 2014 Minutes

Chair Baarsma asked for a voice vote for the minutes of February 10, all committee members stated aye, none opposed the minutes carried.

Testimony from Current City of Tacoma Mayor Strickland

At approximately 7:08 p.m. current City of Tacoma Mayor Strickland began her remarks regarding the 2014 Charter Review. The Mayor commented regarding form of government and the relationship between the utilities and City of Tacoma government as well as the role of the city attorney. She mentioned technical adjustments such as 2.43 should be changed to 'immediately upon passage' and the regularity of charter review as well as the issue of term limits. The Mayor answered questions and completed her remarks at 7:25 p.m.

Testimony from former City of Tacoma Mayors Karen Vialle, Harold Moss and Doug Sutherland

At approximately 7:30 p.m. former Mayor Karen Vialle made comments regarding the relationship between utilities and general government and how the director of TPU is chosen and what authority they have. Other issues she discussed were the civil service commission, city attorney, staff support for councilmembers and changing the form of government.

At approximately 7:42 p.m. former Mayor Harold Moss began his remarks talking about how the charter is working, the role of the city attorney and the observation that the economy of the utilities is not a political question, it is an economic question. Former Mayor Moss also offered comments on form of government and the mayor's role in visioning in partnership with the city council.

At approximately 8:02 p.m. former Mayor Doug Sutherland spoke via telephone from Arizona. The mayor offered observations regarding how to help people move forward and how successes helped the city believe they could do things. He talked about his role as the mayor and working with staff. He noted that if people are willing to collaborate and communicate things can get done. Former mayor Sutherland remarked on the makeup of the utility board and their term.

Testimony from former City of Tacoma Councilmembers and now current Pierce County Councilmembers Connie Ladenburg and Rick Talbert

At approximately 8:16 p.m. former City of Tacoma Councilmember and current Pierce County Councilmember Connie Ladenburg offered her observations, encouraging the city to think regionally, to think as a big city and a leader in the south sound. Change is not a criticism of the past but a means of moving forward. Councilmember Ladenburg encouraged thinking of elected officials in terms of professionalism, that term limits hold Tacoma back.

She suggested looking at the level of information coming to City of Tacoma councilmembers in order to make good decisions regarding the public utility.

At approximately 8:28 p.m. Pierce County Councilmember Rick Talbert began his remarks saying that people needed time to grow into an elected job, therefore he would like to separate the mayor and council regarding term limits. Information coming to policy makers is filtered by the city manager, Councilmember Talbert asked how the council can be further empowered to work through the city manager and that councilmembers can be full time with a city manager. Council should have staff that is independent of the city manager working directly for the councilmember. Now is a good time to have these conversations because there isn't a crisis.

Report on Communications

None

Other Business/Unfinished Business

None

Public Comment

No public comment.

Name	Address/Affiliation
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Committee Comments

No committee comments

Adjournment

Committee Member Leighton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Edmonds. On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Bill Baarsma, Chair

Jeanne Harris, Char