



Chair Bill Baarsma – Vice-Chair Catherine Ushka – Secretary Justin Leighton

Theresa Baker Gary Brackett Mabel Edmonds Tim Farrell Eric Hahn Dr. Charles Horne Mark Martinez Jim Merritt John Messina Kenneth Miller Patricia Talton Justin Van Dyk

Charter Review Committee Minutes

March 3, 2014

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

Committee Members Present:	13	Baker, Brackett, Edmonds, Farrell, Hahn, Leighton (attended telephonically), Martinez, Merritt, Messina, Miller, Talton, Van Dyk and Chair Baarsma.
Committee Members Absent:	2	Horne and Ushka

Approval of the February 26, 2014 Minutes

The minutes were pulled by staff.

Testimony from T.C. Broadnax, City of Tacoma City Manager

At approximately 7:05 p.m., City Manager T.C. Broadnax presented a video produced by the International Council Managers Association (ICMA) explaining the role of the city manager. City Manager Broadnax handed out a one page document with links to resource documents regarding the city manager form of government. He answered questions regarding the role of policy makers and administrators and the importance of keeping communications open and valid between administrators and policy makers. City manager Broadnax would not recommend council confirmation of all the department heads or key department heads such as police and fire chief. He would support independent staffing and appropriate structural resources for City Council Members. The City Manager does not have any recommendations for the charter other than items already brought to the Charter Review Committee by city staff.

Testimony from Tim Strege, Executive Director of the William Factory Small business Incubator

At approximately 7:52 p.m., Tim Strege addressed the Committee referring to the history of Tacoma and the role of government in the past and the changing role of city government. He recommends a strong mayor/council form of government and independent staff for City Council and the Tacoma utility board should have an independent staff person such as a clerk of the board. He also recommends that the council’s abilities should be strengthened regarding audit review. He does not recommend direct review of the Director of the Tacoma Public Utilities by the City Council and recommends keeping the current structure of TPU and City Council because of bonding advantages for TPU. He also recommends separating out the utility functions of the city such as surface water management, solid waste, etc.

Testimony from Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor and Mike Rooney, Pierce County Elections Manager and Shannon Cortez, Pierce County Elections Supervisor

At approximately 8:19 p.m., Julie Anderson made recommendations to the charter review committee. County Auditor Anderson asked that the appearance of ballot headings be changed and to change language referring to holding other elected offices (Section 2.2 and 6.8). She also recommended deleting language referring to polling places to conform to state law that prescribes mail in elections as well as recommending deleting Section 3.7(e) the City Clerk as registrar for voters of the city, Section 2.19 and 2.20 regarding signature verification, deleting Section 5.5 Election Contests and clarifying prohibition of council persons holding other elected office and Section 5.3 candidate filing and 5.1 applications of state election laws. Another recommendation is to delete certain language regarding vacancy in Sections 2.4, 2.7 and 6.11.

At approximately 8:35 p.m., Shannon Cortez went over elections deadlines and recommended taking action on citizen’s for and against committees as soon as possible.

Communications

At approximately 8:50 p.m., Chair Baarsma announced he will be meeting with Labor Wednesday night, Committee Members Farrell and Merritt attended the North End Neighborhood Council meeting and staff announced handouts of talking points are ready.

Subcommittees

At approximately 8:52 p.m., Committee Member Miller reported on the progress of the Form of Government Subcommittee. The other subcommittees will be meeting for the first time this week.

Other Business/Unfinished Business

None.

Public Comments

None.

Committee Comments

At approximately 9:05 p.m., Committee Member Van Dyk asked the committee to use the terms mayor/council and council/manager regarding forms of government.

Adjournment

Committee Member Talton moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Committee Member Hahn. On proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Bill Baarsma, Chair

Jeanne Harris, Charter Review Liaison