



Charter Review Committee Minutes

March 5, 2014

Chair Baarsma called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

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

Committee Members Absent: 2 Horne (Excused) and Messina (Excused)

Approval of the February 26 and March 3, 2014 Minutes

Committee Member Farrell moved that the minutes of February 26, 2014 be approved. Seconded by Committee Member Brackett. Voice Vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

Committee Member Farrell moved that the minutes of March 3, 2014 be approved. Seconded by Committee Member Brackett. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were approved.

Committee Member Farrell moved to change the order of the day. Discussion ensued regarding public comment being moved to the beginning of the agenda going forward. Committee Member Brackett seconded. A voice vote was taken and carried.

Public Comments

Name	Address	Topic
Ken Paulson		How Charter Committee Members are chosen Comments regarding when a tax ballot should run relative to the City Council races

Testimony from Skip Priest, Former Mayor of Federal Way, Washington

At approximately 7:26 p.m., Skip Priest, former Mayor of the City of Federal Way, Washington addressed the committee with comments regarding the change in form of government from council/manager to mayor/council and his experience as the first strong Mayor elected in Federal Way. He stated council/manager form can work with the right city manager. Mr. Priest then stated no matter what form of government it takes the right people in the right positions. He continued to state having a mayor’s election can help bring into focus local issues. Discussion ensued regarding the efficiency of council/manager and mayor/council forms of government.

Communications

At approximately 8:10 p.m., Chair Baarsma announced he met with Labor Wednesday night. Discussion ensued regarding the latest Tacoma News Tribune article.

Subcommittees

At approximately 8:16 p.m., Committee Member Baker asked what recommendations from Julie Anderson, Pierce County Auditor would the Human Resource subcommittee be responsible for. Discussion ensued and the Human Resources Subcommittee is to take all the issues related to elections. Committee Member Baker asked when is the right time to bring an amendment to the full Charter Review Committee. Chair Baarsma said any amendments that were ready will be put in the queue for the Charter Review Committee. Non-controversial amendments do not have to be put on the form used for submitting amendments. Committee Member Baker stated the categories of prioritization are major, minor and housekeeping. Committee Member Merritt reported that if there is no

change recommended there still needs to be evidence it was considered. Chair Baarsma reminded the group that there needs to be two approaches to the work done in the subcommittees addressing both forms of government. Committee Member Hahn reported for the Administrative Subcommittee saying they were prioritizing into controversial and non-controversial and assigned study sections and will meet Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Vice-chair Ushka stated housekeeping items from the Administrative Subcommittee will be sent to the Human Resources Subcommittee. Martha Lantz, Deputy City Attorney, is working on an analysis of whether one amendment could address all housekeeping items. Committee Member Ushka recommends initial prioritization of major, minor or housekeeping items. Committee Member Talton supported defining the process in a clear and deliberative way so everyone is on the same page. She noted Committee Members have not been asked for their comments and recommendations. Committee Member Miller suggested that the Agenda Subcommittee continue to work on identifying benchmarks for progress.

Other Business/Unfinished Business

At approximately 8:45 p.m. **Ms.** Lantz, presented to the committee protocols for alternates, proxies and substitutes.

Committee Comments

None.

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Bill Baarsma, Chair

Jeanne Harris, Charter Review Liaison