



2014 TACOMA CHARTER REVIEW A LOOK AT HOW YOUR CITY WORKS

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

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

Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Charter Review Committee Agenda

1. Opening Remarks by Chair Baarsma
2. Presentations by the Chairs of the Charter Review Subcommittees
 - a. Form of Government – Ken Miller
 - b. Article II Legislative – Justin Leighton
 - c. Article III Administrative – Eric Hahn
 - d. Article IV Public Utilities – Mark Martinez
 - e. Human Resources – Terri Baker
3. Questions and comments from the public addressed by the panel of Subcommittee Chairs
Citizens can participate in several ways:
 - a. Approximately 7500 citizens will receive a random invitation call to listen to the telephone town hall on their phone and a prompt will be provided to ask a question or leave a comment
 - b. Call City Hall at 253-591-5505 to speak to a live attendant
 - c. Email: Charterreview@cityoftacoma.org
 - d. Post on Facebook: [facebook.com/cityoftacoma](https://www.facebook.com/cityoftacoma)
 - e. Twitter @cityoftacoma
 - f. Attend in person at Council Chambers at 747 Market Street, Tacoma
4. Closing Remarks
5. Adjournment



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2014 Charter Review Subcommittee Reports

City of Tacoma

Charter Review Subcommittee Chairs

Telephone Town Hall
April 17, 2014



Form of Government

Chair Ken Miller

- Emergence of “Type 3” cities across America
- Growing acknowledgement neither pure “strong Mayor” nor “Council/Manager” works completely
 - City government needs professional management
 - Cities have diverse, and sometimes conflicting, needs
 - Cities succeed through relationships with other governments and the private sector

Form of Government

- A hybrid called Mayor/Council/CAO is spreading rapidly
 - Truly democratic, “letting” voters choose all their leaders
 - Combines a professional “inside” person to manage government with an energetic “political” leader for the City
 - Has checks and balances to guard against the old style boss
- Why here and now?
 - We’re not nearly as good as we can be

Article II Legislative Branch

Chair Justin Leighton

- Overview
 - Term limits
 - Council composition and number of districts
 - Council compensation
 - Powers and responsibility of the people
 - Council and Mayor

Article II Legislative Branch

Substantive Amendments:

- Section 2.3 – Council Compensation
 - Deleting current language and replacing with a Citizen Commission on Compensation

- Section 2.13 – Emergency Moratoriums
 - Deleting “after publication” and inserting upon passage

- New Section – Adding Neighborhood Councils

Article II Legislative Branch

Housekeeping Amendments:

- Section 2.4 – Mayor Vacancies
 - Keeping consistent with state law
- Section 2.7 – Council Vacancies
 - Keeping consistent with state law
- Section 2.8 – Council meeting frequency
 - Providing clearer language and consistent with current practices
- Sections 2.19 and 2.20 – Citizen Initiatives and Referendums
 - Keeping consistent with state law and Pierce County Auditor policies and practices

Article III

Administrative Branch

Chair Eric Hahn

- Overview
 - Section 3.2 – Staff support for Council
 - Section 3.4 – Exception to City Manager's authority
 - Section 3.5 – Appointment of City Attorney
 - Section 3.7 – City Clerk
 - Section 3.13 – Landmark Preservation Commission

Article IV Public Utilities

Chair Mark Martinez

- Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU)
 - Reduce terms of office and increase number of terms for Utility Board members
 - Allow City Council to propose projects to the Utility Board
 - Require performance audit of TPU by the Utility Board every five years

Article IV Public Utilities

- Tacoma Public Utilities
 - Examination of all utility assets by management consultant every 10 years
 - Require annual Utility Director performance review and reconfirm appointment every two years
 - Require certain City employees and members of boards and commissions to file a Personal Financial Affairs Statement

Human Resources

Chair Terri Baker

- City residency requirement
- Discriminatory actions
- Neighborhood Councils
- Gender neutral language
- Housekeeping
 - Election law to match state law
 - Personnel to Human Resources
 - Article X Transition

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