

ARTICLE IV PUBLIC UTILITIES

AMENDMENT XX

CURRENT CHARTER LANGUAGE:

Section 4.8 – There is hereby created a Public Utility Board to be composed of five members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, for five-year terms; provided, that in the appointment of the first Board, on the first day of the month next following the taking of office by the first Council under this charter, one member shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, one for a term of three years, one for a term of four years, and one for a term of five years, and at the expiration of each of the terms so provided for, a successor shall be appointed for a term of five years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as provided for regular appointments.

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE:

Section 4.8 – There is hereby created a Public Utility Board to be composed of five members, appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, for **five-three**-year terms; provided, that in the appointment of the first Board, on the first day of the month next following the taking of office by the first Council under this charter, one member shall be appointed for a term of one year, one for a term of two years, one for a term of three years, ~~one for a term of four years, and one for a term of five years~~, and at the expiration of each of the terms so provided for, a successor shall be appointed for a term of **five-three** years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as provided for regular appointments. **Members may only serve no more than three consecutive terms.**

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Five years are a large commitment for a voluntary board. A five-year term could in many cases prevent a larger pool of willing applicants to volunteer to be on the TPU board. The goal is to make our government open, transparent, accountable and diverse. The current term structure does not make our government more open or diverse. Changing the terms from five years to three will hopefully provide everyday residents the ability to volunteers. Term limits ensures that turnover, change in view and perspectives can be achieved.

ARTICLE IV PUBLIC UTILITIES

AMENDMENT X

CURRENT CHARTER LANGUAGE:

General Powers Respecting Utilities

Section 4.1 – The city shall possess all the powers granted to cities by state law to construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, and operate, either within or outside its corporate limits, including, but not by way of limitation, public utilities for supplying water, light, heat, power, transportation, and sewage and refuse collection, treatment, and disposal services or any of them, to the municipality and the inhabitants thereof; and also to sell and deliver any of the utility services above mentioned outside its corporate limits, to the extent permitted by state law.

RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE:

General Powers Respecting Utilities

Section 4.1 – The city shall possess all the powers granted to cities by state law to construct, condemn and purchase, purchase, acquire, add to, maintain, and operate, either within or outside its corporate limits, including, but not by way of limitation, public utilities for supplying water, light, heat, power, transportation, **internet, cable and telecommunications** and sewage and refuse collection, treatment, and disposal services or any of them, to the municipality and the inhabitants thereof; and also to sell and deliver any of the utility services above mentioned outside its corporate limits, to the extent permitted by state law.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Tacoma is already provided a cable services through Tacoma Public Utilities. While calling out Internet, cable and telecommunication is not obligating the city in providing these services nor does it need to be called out to be provided it is important that the charter reflect the values of its residents. The era of cable is quickly changing and calling out Internet in the charter will prove as a major values statement to help guide the City in its next innovative direction.

ARTICLE IV

Public Utilities

Amendment to 4.12 –Powers and Duties of the PUB (Major)

CURRENT CHARTER LANGUAGE:

The Board shall submit an annual budget to the Council for approval, in the manner prescribed by state law.

RECOMMENDED CHARTER LANGUAGE:

The Board shall submit an annual budget to the Council for approval, in the manner prescribed by state law. The Council may adopt, change, alter, amend, add to or reject the budget and return it to the Board until agreement can be reached. Agreement must be reached within forty-five days of the first submission.

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

-Legal interpretation of the current language does not allow the Council to do anything but approve or disapprove. This allows greater flexibility.

-Change requested by Council members.

RATIONALE AGAINST CHANGE:

-May set the timeline back for budget submission to insure completion before fiscal year.

-Change not requested by PUB.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS: