

City of Tacoma

Charter Review Committee

SPECIAL MEETING

April 2, 2024
12:00 p.m.

Tacoma Municipal Building, Council Chambers
747 Market Street, Tacoma, WA 98402

Webinar Link: www.zoom.us/j/89496171192 Dial: 253-215-8782
Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192 Passcode: 896569

AGENDA

1. Overview of Work and Recommendations Presentation

A quorum of the Charter Review Committee will attend the City Council study session to present an overview of their work and recommendations for consideration.

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2024 Charter Review Committee Recommendations

	TOPIC	SECTION	RECOMMENDATION	STATUS
1.	Land Acknowledgement	Preamble	Add land acknowledgement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept considered • Awaiting feedback from Puyallup Tribe
2.	Form of Government (FOG)	Various	TBD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to Mayor – Council FOG • Continue Council – Manager FOG • Propose menu of alternatives (possible) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Returned to Subcommittee for further discussion • CRC continues discussion on 3/28
3.	Term Limits	2.5 2.7	TBD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 terms for council; 2 terms for mayor • Resign to run • Continue existing 10 year limit for current Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff revising language • Final vote required
4.	Full-time Council	2.35	Council shall serve on a full-time basis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Language Approved • Final vote required
5.	Council Staff	New Section (in Art. II)	Council shall have the authority to employ or contract for personnel to advise and assist the council. The personnel shall report directly to the council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff revising language • Final vote required
6.	Salary Commission RCW Conflict	2.3	Changes the Salary Commission procedure to align with the requirements of RCW 35.21.015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Final vote required
7.	References to “citizen” and “freeholder”	Various	Modify references to “citizen” and “freeholder” throughout the Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting language • Final vote required
8.	Citizenship and eligibility for employment	6.3	Remove Sec. 6.3 “Eligibility for Employment”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required

9.	Official Newspaper	2.13	Modify section to add the City's preferred digital media to print media for purposes of publication of ordinances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
10.	Landmark Preservation Committee	3.13	Adds composition of the commission to Charter: a member from each of the 5 council districts and the remaining members are professionals in historic preservation or cultural resources, with priority for architectural or design experience. Total number of commissioners remains set by TMC (currently 11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
11.	TPU – Internet as a public utility	4.1	Adds internet as an allowable public utility, providing TPU the power and direction to be able to serve the city with internet as a public benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
12.	TPU - Board	4.8 4.9	Reserves one Board position of the current five for a member that lives and receives service outside of the City of Tacoma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
13.	TPU - Shared Services	4.15	Adds an audit to the already performed 10-year management review that provides a cost-benefit assessment of the services shared by the city and utility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
14.	TPU - "Purposes of Inquiry"	4.19	Clarifies what "purpose of inquiry" means by clearly defining prohibitions and allowances of Board inquiries to staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
15.	General Government - "Purposes of Inquiry"	3.2	Clarifies what "purpose of inquiry" means by clearly defining prohibitions and allowances of Board inquiries to staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required

16.	Employment Anti-Discrimination	6.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernize reference: change “handicap” to “disability” • Require Council periodic review of code and code updates as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
17.	Ranked Choice Voting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council may adopt ranked choice voting for city elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting language • Final vote required
18.	City Attorney	3.5 3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council review of applicants proposed by the City Manager and hired subject to Council approval • Approval of Council required to remove the City Attorney 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
19.	Planning Commission	3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases membership from 9 to 11 • Changes composition of membership (adds flexibility) • Eliminates Charter prohibition on Planning Commission members receiving pay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Language Approved • Final vote required
20.	Disposition of City Owned Property	9.1	Allows the City to transfer City owned waterfront property to public agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting/ finalizing language • Final vote required
21.	Police Accountability	Sec. 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creates the Office of Police Accountability to conduct investigations of complaints and use of force by law enforcement officers and to review internal investigations. • Creates Community Police Oversight Committee to review Office of Police Accountability reports, findings and recommendations, to engage in community outreach, seek community input on race and social justice matters, and make recommendations to the Chief; and to advise the Chief and Council on systemic problems and opportunities in TPD practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept approved • Staff drafting language • Final vote required
22.	Police Accountability		<p>TBD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collective Bargaining 	The Subcommittee will report recommendations to the CRC on 4/1

23.	Initiative and Referendum	2.20 2.22	TBD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the number of days to collect signatures for a referendum from 30 to 180 Prohibit the Council from submitting a proposed ordinance to electors that would substantially conflict with any proposed initiative (ordinance) provided to the clerk; Council may seek a declaratory judgment as to whether a substantial conflict exists; if the Council, City representative, or citizen or organization that provided the initiative seeks relief from the court beyond declaratory judgment, the court shall grant attorney fees to the citizen or organization if they prevail 	The Subcommittee will continue discussions on the recommendations and will report their final recommendations to the CRC on 3/28
24.	Campaign Finance	5.6 5.7	TBD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates and Election Commission to determine campaign contribution limits, lobbying regulations, and oversee the Democracy Voucher program Creates a Democracy Voucher program to provide eligible Tacoma residents with vouchers that may be redeemed for funds and residents may use the vouchers to support candidates 	The Subcommittee will continue discussions on the recommendations and will report their final recommendations to the CRC on 3/28
25.	Charter Review	2.25	TBD: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change review from no less than 10 years to no less than 9 years Provides no less than 12 months for the charter review process The CRC may revise and/or appeal any amendments that are rejected or modified by the Council and submit those recommendations to the voters 	The Subcommittee will continue discussions on the recommendations and will report their final recommendations to the CRC on 3/28
26.	Neighborhood Councils		TBD: The CRC will hear subcommittee recommendations on 3/28	
27.	Climate Commission		TBD: The CRC will hear subcommittee recommendations on 3/28	

Charter Review Committee

Subcommittee Assignments

Public Utilities

1. Katie
2. Bryan
3. Maricres
4. Nicholas
5. Jason

Power of the People

1. Andrea
2. Silong
3. Latasha
4. Maricres
5. Andre

Administration

1. Nicholas
2. Patrick
3. Rebecca
4. Diamatris
5. Melissa

Miscellaneous

1. Jason
2. Steve
3. Lok
4. Rebecca
5. Katie

Police Accountability/Citizens Police Commission

1. Silong
2. Latasha
3. Melissa
4. Andre
5. Patrick

Form of Government

1. Rebecca
2. Lok
3. Melissa
4. Maricres
5. Andrea

Public Outreach

1. Latasha
2. Andrea
3. Silong
4. Maricres
5. Lok

CHARTER OF THE CITY OF TACOMA
City Council Recommendations for Charter Review
Commission Consideration
By Article Section

Key:

Blue = Council Requests

Purple = CRC Member Requests (Bold are priority requests)

Green = Staff Requests

Article Section

I. Incorporation and General Powers

Incorporation and Boundaries1.1

General Powers of the City1.2

II. The Legislative Branch

- **Leg Branch**

Creation and Composition of the City Council2.1

- **Sec. 2.1 / Sec. 5.3 - Number of Council districts (adding districts)**
 - **Number of Council districts (6 requests)**
 - Composition of Council Members/Districts would likely need to be modified under a proposed form of government change
 - **2.1 Creation & Composition of City Council**

Qualifications and Compensation of Council Members 2.2 – 2.35

- **Sec. 2.3 - Review salary commission to ensure there is not a conflict with state law**
 - **Reviewing structure and role of the Citizens Commission on Elected Salaries (the “Commission”) (3 requests)**
 - **Should the Commission also be charged with considering compensation of the TPU Board of Commissioners?**
 - **Should the Commission be charged with considering compensation recommendations for other City boards and commissions.**
 - **Should Commission members be drawn by lot or is there a way to modernize/professionalize the Commission? An example would be the City of Spokane’s Salary Review Commission.**
 - **Should the name be changed to remove “Citizens”?**
 - **Review its operation to understand if any tweaks are needed**
 - **The ~~Citizen~~ Commission on Elected Salaries needs a complete overhaul with more realistic guardrails to ensure adequate compensation for Council Members**
 - **Council action to adopt salary that is set by the Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries – possible conflict with RCW 35.21.015.**

- RCW 35.21.015(3): “Any change in salary shall be filed by the commission with the city clerk and shall become effective and incorporated into the city or town budget without further action of the city council or salary commission.”
 - Section 2.3: “A Citizen Commission on Elected Salaries will determine the compensation and salary of the Mayor and each Council Member. The Commission shall set the salary and any salary changes for the Mayor and Council Members. The salary and any salary changes set by the Commission shall be adopted by the City Council.
 - Determinations for any change in the salaries of these elected officials shall be filed with the City Clerk and transmitted to the Council for adoption no later than September 1 of the calendar year.”
- Sec. 2.35 - Length a person may serve consecutively on Council; consider current term limits - (4 requests)
 - **Reviewing the length of consecutive service as Councilmember, Mayor, or combination of**
 - **Should there be any length of service limitation? If yes, should Mayoral service be removed and added as a separate length of service limitation?**
 - **Should it be amended to note terms of service rather than years?**
 - **Term limits**
 - **10 years is a weird and arbitrary number, should be simplified to X terms of X years**
- Sec. 2.35 – Consider disconnecting the allowable timed served as a Council Member from the amount of time served as the Mayor
 - **2.35 (which seems numerically out of order!) Term Limits**
 - **Sec. 2.35 – Consider disconnecting the allowable timed served as a Council Member from the amount of time served as the Mayor**
- Expectations for a full time council
 - **Full Time Council with additional staff** (see also 3.2-3.4)
 - **Expectations for a full time council**

The Mayor2.4

- Sec. 2.4 - Review term limits for council, particularly the Mayor’s role – we want experienced CM’s to be able to run for Mayor (1 requests)
 - **Term limits**
 - **Section 2.4 – making it so a mayor can serve a full term after serving two terms as a city council member**
 - **Sec. 2.4 - Review term limits for council, particularly the Mayor’s role – we want experienced CM’s to be able to run for Mayor**
- **Mayor's role**

- Mayor’s role would change in this section should form of government change
- **2.4 The Mayor**
- **Full Time Council with additional staff** (see also 3.2-3.4)
- Salary adopted by ordinance – possible conflict with RCW 35.21.015 and duplicates what is in Charter Section 2.3.
- Section 2.4: “... The compensation to be paid to the Mayor for the performance of the Mayor’s duties as such shall be fixed by ordinance, which sum shall be inclusive of compensation as a Council Member. Except as otherwise provided herein, all provisions relating to the office of Council Member shall relate also to the office of Mayor.”

Removal from or Forfeiture of Office2.5 – 2.6

Council Vacancies2.7

- **2.7 Council Vacancies**

Procedure of the Council2.8 – 2.10

- **Sec. 2.8 – The number of mandated council meetings – (5 requests)**
 - **Number of Council meetings (2 requests)**
 - Are 46 meetings necessary to conduct the business of the City over a calendar year? If no, what is the correct number?
 - Could revisit the forty-six (46) times per calendar year without severely affecting city business.
 - Add hybrid option language?
- Section 2.9“...members present may adjourn the meeting to a later date [or have the meeting and not be allowed to vote on any business.]”

Legislation2.11 – 2.15

- ~~“official newspaper of the City”~~ needs to be updated throughout the Charter for the century to come (city website/social media); there is a problem with a national conglomerate being considered the “local” paper of record
- **2.13- the issue identified about the official newspaper of the city (4 requests)**

Compilation and Codification of Ordinances2.16

Penalties for Non-compliance with Ordinances2.17

- Section 2.17- when was this passed? Are these fines meaningful?

Powers of the People2.18 – 2.25

- **Sec, 2.18, 2.19, 2.20 - The citizens’ initiative process, including best practices such as the number of required signatures**

- Sec. 2.18 – Sec 2.25 – Review how the Charter allows the use of initiatives to change City ordinances, including the possibility of a third party review similar to the Attorney General review of State initiatives
- Sec. 2.25 - Replace “freeholder” with appropriate language such as ‘steward’ or as otherwise defined in state law
 - Getting rid of “freeholder” and citizenship requirements (4 requests)
- **Initiatives**
- **Should revisit increased metrics for qualified signatures to get an initiative considered/on the ballot; 10% of votes cast in a Mayoral election is a small fraction of the overall community**
- **Sec. 2.19-2.20 –**
 - **Require Citizens of Tacoma to carry out complicated bureaucratic procedures before ordinances or amendments are voted on by the people. While some ordinances may not be of significant concern to the majority of citizens, these procedure requirements are carried out in a way that assumes public input or approval is unnecessary for most ordinances, even on topics that are known to be of major concern to citizens, like housing and crime. Tacoma is capable of innovating a more inclusive procedure in which it is instead assumed that citizens want their voices to be heard in these decisions and can opt-out if they do not, even if only for known special topics.**
- **Section 2.19e “Notification of the ballot title shall be posted at City Hall, on the City’s web page[, and a newspaper chosen by the City to publish news.]”**
- **Section 2.19h “... to collect signatures [via written form or through e-signatures online from registered voters].”**
- **2.18 Powers of the People**
- **2.19 Initiative by the People re new ordinance/amendment to existing ordinance**
- **2.20 Referendum by the People on Passed Ordinances**
- **2.21 Special election for initiated and referred ordinances**
- **2.22 Council Referendum on Proposed Ordinances**
- **2.25 Charter Review Committee & Board of Freeholders**
 - **2.25- Review why the council must review recommended amendments before they go to a public vote**
- **2.26- Review why the council must review recommended amendments before they go to a public vote**
- **2.26- The inclusion of neighborhood councils should be reviewed**

III. The Administrative Branch

- Review the inclusion of boards and commissions in the charter, including a review of the Landmarks Preservation Commission, Tacoma Humane Society, and the Planning Commission. The review should include consideration of state law requirements.
 - **Review the inclusion of boards and commissions in the city charter in Section 3. In particular, I would like to explore the possibility of including a Community Police Advisory Commission.**

- Administrative Branch

The City Manager3.1

- 3.1 The City Manager

Council-Manager Relationships3.2 – 3.4

- Form of Government – (3 requests- see also Council-Manager Relationships)
- Council-Manager Relationships- form of government (10 requests)
 - Shift from Council-Manager form of government to a more elected accountable Mayor-Council form
 - Section 3.2 - “Except for purposes of Inquiry”
 - Revise for more clarity
 - Form of Governance:
 - Explore pros and cons of existing system vs. strong mayor
 - Can we explore ways to increase accountability of staff for mayor/council actions and interests?
 - The electorate thinks that when they elect the mayor, they are electing the person who is where the buck stops, so to speak, but they aren’t because departments report to the city manager. Is there a way to make things more transparent to the public?
 - Potentially have the sheriff report directly to the mayor?
 - Provide for the City Council to have its own City Attorney who reports directly to the City Council.
 - Have City Clerk report to City Council?
- A functional Legislative Branch requires their own employees and discretion to support the work of legislating; the City Manager hiring and managing the support staff for Council is not warranted and should be changed if the form of government is not (2 requests)
- Barring a change in form of government, I would like to see more input and decision making on city departmental Director hiring by Council rather than simple notification, meet/greet, or confirmation of chosen candidate
- Roles (Council, Mayor, City Manager) - the FOG concerns/addressing challenges, without changing the FOG

City Attorney 3.5 – 3.6

- Section 3.5 – Appointment of the City Attorney (2 requests)
 - City Attorney should be appointed by the Council (Leg Branch); responsible to Council, but still retaining advisory role to rest of city administration
 - 3.5 & 3.6 City Attorney
 - Section 3.5 – Appointment of the City Attorney

City Clerk3.7

- For potential discussion in relation to providing better information access to the City Council

City Planning Commission3.8

- Section 3.8 - Planning Commission representation from certain communities/ industries/vocation of interest
- Section 3.8 – Planning Commission. Consider adding a note indicating “one or more” planning commissions to allow consideration of tiers of Planning Commissions or ways to triage and prioritize work between two commissions in the TMC in order to allow for more timely review of planning issue
- Planning Commission
 - Removing the prohibition on compensation for the Planning Commission
- **Section 3.8b “... environmental [health] community;”**

Tacoma Public Library3.9

Tacoma Humane Society3.10

- Is it appropriate for a city charter to call out a specific organization that existing outside the city structure in this document?
- **Remove reference to a private entity in the Charter. Consider if the section needs to be there at all.**

Administrative Organization3.11 – 3.12

- Sec. 3.12 - Review boards defined in the charter, to include parameters to remove board members for dereliction of duties
 - If an appointee no longer meets the residence requirement, add that change in status as a reason for removal.

Landmarks Preservation Commission3.13

- **Section 3.13 “... composed of members with such powers and duties as are provided by the ordinance [with respect and acknowledgement to the indigenous lands we inhabit.]”**

IV. Public Utilities

- **Public Utilities (4 requests)**
- Wouldn't mind seeing an added provision in these Sections that gives the Utility Board staff support to help with Board decision making and/or gauge performance metrics

General Powers Respecting Utilities4.1

- Sec. 4.1 - Clarifying internet as a Utility

- Powers Respecting the Utility
 - Should “internet service” be added a public utility?
 - **Add internet as a listed utility**

Power to Acquire and Finance4.2

Rates4.3

Diversion of Utility Funds 4.4 – 4.5

Disposal of Utility Properties 4.6

Franchises for Water or Electric Utilities4.7

The Public Utility Board 4.8 – 4.9

- Sec. 4.8 – The Public Utility Board and all other sections related to their powers and duties
- Sec. 4.8 - TPU Board membership and barriers to serving on the TPU board (3 requests)
 - I would be willing to entertain a conversation about a rotating, non-voting member of the Board that represents the interests of adjacent communities who receive service from the city’s utility
 - **Sec. 4.8 - Number of Utility Board Members; Membership of the Utility Board Defined**
- Sec. 4.9 - Compensation for TPU board members – (2 requests)
 - Current Utility Board members can apply for certain reimbursement, but we should consider formalized compensation for their time and work.
 - **Residency requirement for Board membership - allow at least one member to be from the utility territory outside the City limits.**

Powers and Duties of the Public Utility Board 4.10 – 4.17

- **Sec. 4.12 - TPU budget submittal to council**
- Sec. 4.13 Utility Board meetings Add hybrid option language?
- **Section 4.13 “... The time and place of all meetings shall be publicly announced [at least 2 weeks in advance...]”**
- **Sec. 4.14 and 4.15 - Public Utilities performance and rate audit (does SAO do this or external)**
- Sec. 4.17 – Shared services/ Duplication of services, including the structure of the public utility as a separate entity- – (2 requests)
 - **Review the effectiveness of this provision in the current environment**

Administrative Organization4.18 – 4.22

- **Section 4.19 - “Except for purposes of Inquiry”**
 - **Revise for more clarity**

Location and Relocation of Utility Works 4.23

V. Nominations and Elections

- **Add a campaign finance section that institutes contribution limits (2 requests)**

Application of State Election Laws 5.1

Filing and Certification of Candidates5.2

Election of Council Members – Numbered Positions 5.3

- **Section 2.1 / Section 5.3 - Number of Council districts (adding districts)**
 - **Number of Council Districts (4 requests)**
 - **Should the CRC consider adding a 6th council district to better represent district residents**
 - **Would the addition of a 6th district increase number of Councilmember to 9 or would the CRC remove 1 at-large council position to have total number of Councilmember remain at 8?**
 - **Would be interested in looking at a different composition of Council Members/Districts outside of a change in form of government**
 - **5.3- change "The person receiving the highest number of votes for the office of Council Member for the position for which they are a candidate shall be declared duly elected." to voters rank candidates for an office or offices in order of the voter’s preference and ballots are counted in rounds. The person with the highest number of votes after these rounds for the office of Council Member for the position for which they are a candidate shall be declared duly elected.**
 - **5.3- change "The Council shall change the lines of the election districts, in the time and manner as prescribed by state law." to A Citizen's Commission on Redistricting shall change the lines of the election districts, in the time and manner as prescribed by state law.**

Election Contests 5.4

Other Provisions 5.5

VI. City Officers and Personnel

- **City Personnel and Boards (2 requests)**
- **Making it so people who serve on boards and commissions can be paid for their time, in order to get more diversity.**

Unclassified Service6.1

- **Unclassified Service**

- Should the Charter add unclassified services to serve the City Council. An example of this language would be, “all principal officers and assistants to the Council as prescribed by the affirmative vote of not less than six members”
- Change to Tacoma Venues and Events

Classified Service 6.2

Eligibility for Employment 6.3 (7 requests)

- Sec. 6.3 - Employee residency requirements– the city cannot enforce this; it limits some hiring pools and it cannot be enforced
- Sec. 6.3 - Requires that COT employees be citizens – this should be removed
 - **Remove citizenship requirement**
- Sec. 6.3 – Eligibility for employment
 - Eligibility for Employment
 - Under state and federal law is this section enforceable? If yes, which sections? If no, which sections?
 - CRC should consider removing unenforceable requirements
 - Remove city resident eligibility for employment, it’s not enforced and it doesn’t make sense
 - **Sec. 6.3 - Resident requirement (classified)**
 - 6.3 Eligibility for Employment
 - Requiring department heads and managers to live in the city.
 - Residency and Citizenship Requirements for employees needs review and clarification.

Oath of Office 6.4

Surety Bonds6.5

Pecuniary Interest6.6

Discriminatory Actions 6.7

- Section 6.7 - Discriminatory Actions/update classes
 - 6.7 Discriminatory Actions (4 requests)
 - Section 6.7 “No applicant for employment and no appointed officer or employee shall be discriminated against in any personnel decision on the based of religion, race, [caste system], color, national origin or ancestry, political affiliation, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, familial status, honorably discharged veteran or military status...]”

- Broaden discrimination statement or change charter to require a predicted regular update to this statement or reference the Tacoma Municipal Code that will allow for more frequent updates

Political Activity 6.8

- This seems interesting to address in certain situations, especially if Council Members are not paid a housing/living wage.

Compensation of Officers and Employees6.9

- **Compensation**
 - **Should this section add specific Boards (TPU? Library) and Commissions, or generally note that Boards and Commissions are eligible to be compensation in accordance with ordinances adopted by the Council?**

Employee Welfare Benefits 6.10

Civil Service Board 6.11

- Review Civil Service Board term limits

Powers and Duties of the Civil Service Board 6.12

Human Resources Director 6.13

Personnel Rules 6.14

- Review rules related to how long employment lists should be kept (under civil service) as this charter requirement is in conflict with best and successful hiring practices and may be in conflict with equity goals.
- **Section 6.14 Personnel Rules**
 - **Subsection (a) - City Council Comprehensive plan should create a diverse and inclusive workforce**
 - **Subsection (c)(3) - Include underrepresented demographic groups in addition to veterans for 10% grade provision**
 - **Add Subsection (c)(13) concerning developing a diverse and inclusive work force**

Special Provision Relating to Examinations 6.15

Status of Existing Employees6.16

Arbitration 6.17

Status of New Employee Groups 6.18

VII. General Finance

- I'd like to learn more about the financial issues the City faces. If for no other reason than because of my background in finance.

Fiscal Year7.1

The Budget 7.2

Budget Control7.3

- I want to know the relationship between what the Council passes as a budget, and what staff recommend as final passage, especially if there are components that Council Members think they are getting (a study on a policy, for example) that are not included in the staff recommendation; is there adequate notification of an exemption and reasons for it?

Investment of Funds7.4

- Should a Councilmember be added to the Finance committee in addition to the Mayor, Director of Finance, and City Treasurer?
- Include City Council Member here? Worth a discussion
- Section 7.4 – funds should only be invested in ways that increase global sustainability, i.e.-no oil companies.

Department of Finance7.5

Receipt, Custody, and Disbursement of Funds 7.6 – 7.9

Purchasing and Contracts 7.10 – 7.13

Independent Audit 7.14

Taxation and Indebtedness 7.15

Public Sale of Bonds 7.16

VIII. Franchises 8.1 – 8.7

IX. Miscellaneous Provisions

Disposition of City Property 9.1 (2 requests)

- Should the prohibition on the sale or disposition of waterfront property be amended to allow the Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma to purchase / be gifted waterfront property?
- Would make sense to end the prohibition on waterfront property sale in the specific case that the sale is made to Metro Parks Tacoma.

Public Records 9.2

Claims Against City	9.3
Parks	9.4
Separability Clause	9.5

X. Succession in Government

Continuance of Ordinances and Vested Rights	10.1
Continuance of Departments and Officers	10.2
Transfer of Functions and Personnel	10.3
Preliminary Meetings of the Council	10.4
• Sec. 10.4 - Preliminary Meeting of Council (1953 reference..)	
Transfer of Records, Property, and Funds	10.5
Effective Date of Charter	10.6

All Sections

- All – ensure gender neutral language throughout
- All – incorporate disability-related equity principals
- All - examine subsets of the City Government and make sure the City Council has oversight over public funds allocated by the City
- Address references/use of the word “citizen” (2 requests)
- Address any references to “newspaper” or “official newspaper” or “official newspaper of the city of Tacoma” (3 requests)
 - There are various mentions of official notice to be placed in the newspaper - Assess if this is still the most relevant way to distribute official notices and if there might need to be an electronic alternative or addition.
- Technical - Translation (use DSHS used languages)
- Add Section - Climate Action Plan/Enviro Stewardship
- New Article X - Review 2014 CRC Update (2014 CRC)
- Add - Historical Preservation
- Preamble “We the People of the City of Tacoma[...to uphold the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and the State of Washington and to promote a more equitable, just, and welcoming City do hereby enact this charter.]”

2024 Charter Review Committee Members:

1. Baird, Katie – selected through interview process
2. Carr, Nicholas – selected by then Council Member Hines
3. Castro, Maricres – selected by Council Member Bushnell
4. Chhun, Silong – selected through interview process
5. Fischer, Patrick – selected by Council Member Ushka
6. Flint, Bryan – selected by then Deputy Mayor Walker
7. Gauthier, Jason – selected by Council Member Daniels
8. Jimenez, Andre – selected by former Council Member Blocker
9. Malott, Melissa – selected by Council Member Diaz
10. Palmer, Latasha – selected through interview process
11. Reay, Andrea – selected through interview process
12. Stith, Rebecca – selected by Council Member Rumbaugh
13. Wamback, Stephen (Chair) – selected by Mayor Woodards
14. Winston, Diamatris – selected through interview process
15. Wu, Lok Yin – selected through interview process

No.	Name	Topic	Received
1	Heidi Stephens	provided public comment on importance of a public comment period.	1/19 email
2	Jason Van Cleese	provided comments on public meetings and clarity of speaker in virtual meetings.	1/26 email
3	Donna Thompson	provided comments on the importance of a review of form of government.	1/29 email
4	Rain Booker	regarding the strong mayor form of government, and full or part-time City Council Members with staff, and Council District constituency.	1/29 meeting
5	Allen McKenzie	regarding the strong mayor form of government, City Council issues, and the lack of transparency and accountability in the city manager form of government.	1/29 meeting
6	Allen McKenzie	speaking on police accountability and transparency, Spokane Police Department model, police oversight via ballot, and public awareness of police misconduct.	2/8 meeting
7	Donna Thompson	speaking on big city issues, form of government, City Manager accountability to voters, use of City staff to get Charter Review Committee work going, and formation of an Outreach Subcommittee.	2/8 meeting
8	Donna Thompson	speaking on the flyer for community outreach, website links not working properly, and meeting minutes	2/12 meeting
9	Association of Local Government Auditors	provided information on independent performance audits as part of the Charter review.	2/20 email
10	Jeff Ryan	provided comments on commission and board requirements.	2/21 email
11	Courtney Davis	provided additional comments on an Urban Forest Commission	2/26 email
12	Jean Homan Dunn	spoke in favor of Tacoma's current form of government, the possible disadvantage of having full-time Council, and possible legal ramifications of changing the Charter language of "shall" to "will".	2/26 meeting
13	Oneida Arnold	spoke in favor of a strong Mayor/Council form of government, homeless epidemic in the city, and lack of oversight in the Council/Manager form of government.	2/26 meeting
14	Ann Dorn	spoke on police accountability, Community's Police Advisory Committee (CPAC) recommendation ignored by the city, and favors a full-time Council.	2/26 meeting
15	Barb Church	spoke in favor of a full-time Council, environmental issues in the city, lack of transparency in government, in favor of CPAC/police oversight and homelessness in the city.	2/26 meeting
16	Allen McKenzie	spoke in favor of civilian oversight of the Tacoma Police Department and urged the Committee to think of how to fund the civilian oversight body, if formed.	2/26 meeting

No.	Name	Topic	Received
17	Jenda Kong	commended the Committee's outreach efforts to include non-English speakers to the discussion.	2/26 meeting
18	Jhema Lucas	spoke on the difficulty of starting a business in the city and attaining business permits, and thanked the Committee's efforts to be as inclusive as possible.	2/26 meeting
19	Kelvin Hoang	thanked the Committee for including the Vietnamese community in the CRC's discussion.	2/26 meeting
20	Courtney Davis	spoke in support for a Mayor/Council form of government, support plain language changes in the Charter, formation of Urban Forrest Commission, and full-time Council.	2/26 meeting
21	April Smith	spoke in support of the Mayor/Council form of government and full-time Council.	2/26 meeting
22	Heidi Stephens	spoke on needing clear instruction of where to submit written comment, Tacoma City Charter Sections 2.9, 2.10, 2.13, 3.1, 3.8, 3.11, 3.13, 4.2, 4.4-6, 4.7, 4.23, 6.3, 6.9, and 9.1, in favor of rank choice voting, citizen oversight of police, and land sale of waterfront property should be brought to the people.	2/26 meeting
23	Lester Pogue	spoke in support of everything Heidi Stephens provided, the loss of Council public comment portion, zoning changes should have more public input, supports a Mayor/Council form, full-time Council, support strengthening CPAC, waterfront property be given back to the Puyallup Tribe, and public participation should be counted more than once.	2/26 meeting
24	Stacy Oaks	spoke on submission of public comments that were not received by the Committee, support rank choice voting, full-time Council and staff, Planning Committee recommendations shouldn't be easily dismissed, public comment portion in Council Meeting shorten and that people don't feel heard or respected, and their health and safety not prioritized in the current form of government.	2/26 meeting
25	Joy	spoke on raising questions to the difference between forming a Climate Commission versus Sustainable Commission, forming a Police Commission versus CPAC, and in support of plain language Charter.	2/26 meeting
26	Lester Pogue	asked on the response process to comments made by the public to the Charter Review Committee.	2/26 meeting
27	Allen McKenzie	provided additional information on cities of Spokane and Olympia ombudsperson/auditor positions.	2/27 email
28	Heidi Stephens	provided information on comments provided at 2/26 meeting	2/29 email

No.	Name	Topic	Received
29	Heidi Stephens	provided follow up information on comments provided at 2/26 meeting	2/29 email
30	Rachel Wilkie	spoke on grant funding, annual Neighborhood Council funding, and training opportunities.	3/6 email
31	Ty Moore	spoke on the importance of making the initiative process easier and removing confusing language on alternatives.	3/11 meeting
32	Ann Dorn	spoke on police accountability and citizen oversight, ballot initiatives, and misleading language on alternative.	3/11 meeting
33	Zev	spoke on police accountability, strong initiative process, lack of accountability of City Manager, and unfair competing initiative.	3/11 meeting
34	Beverly Allen	spoke on citizen oversight of police, empowering CPAC, and competing ballot initiative.	3/11 meeting
35	Ann Dorn	spoke on citizen oversight of public system in general, extending citizen's participation in the oversight process including hiring and firing police officers, and giving citizens meaningful involvement beyond CPAC's recommendations.	3/14 meeting
36	Catherine Lee	spoke on police accountability and citizen oversight, public mistrust, and additional participation in the oversight process.	3/14 meeting
37	Eric Herde	spoke on police accountability, furthering CPAC's recommendations by extending public participation in police oversight process, and the City ignoring CPAC's recommendations.	3/14 meeting
38	Oneida Arnold	spoke on citizen oversight of police, more transparency, independent investigation to improve accountability and public trust, the City ignoring CPAC's recommendation, review process and complaint resolution, and strong Mayor form of government.	3/14 meeting
39	Zephyra B	spoke on police accountability, and expansion of citizen oversight committee including the power to hire and fire police officers.	3/14 meeting
40	Stacy Oaks	spoke on police accountability, strong citizen oversight committee, supports strong Mayor and Council form of government, and citizen initiative process.	3/14 meeting
41	Barb Church	spoke on stronger police oversight and public research given to Council but not read due to lack of time.	3/14 meeting
42	Tyler Sandness	spoke on police accountability, strong citizen oversight over the police department, lack of trust with the police department, higher standards should be expected, and lack of accountability of the City Manager.	3/14 meeting

No.	Name	Topic	Received
43	Richard A. Zais Jr.	provided a comparative analysis of Strong Mayor and Council-Manager Government	3/20 email
44-114	Stacy Oaks	provided a list of 71 individuals who signed a letter on form of government	3/1 email
115-132	18 residents	individuals on form of government via Action Network letter	various days

Emery, Nicole (Legal)

From: 350 Tacoma <350tacoma@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 1, 2024 6:21 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Hallum, Sonja; Lantz, Martha
(Legal); Emery, Nicole (Legal); Taverna, Joan (Legal); Haigh, Susan (Legal)
Subject: Comments For City Charter Review Committee
Attachments: an_report_city-charter-emails-as-of-march-1-at-130pm_2024-03-01-21-33.csv
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hello City Charter Review Committee,
Please accept the comment below on behalf of the 71 people listed in the attached report, who used our actionnetwork link between 2/27 and this afternoon. We were experiencing a technical issue that has now been fixed which prevented the emails from coming through.

Thank you,
Stacy Oaks
Community Organizer
350 Tacoma

Comment:

Dear Charter Review Committee,
When a government's power is highly concentrated in an unelected individual, we are not practicing democracy and the best interests of the residents are not being represented. We need to change the current "weak mayor" system to return more of the City's decision-making back to the people we elected.

Businesses are run by managers and for too long Tacoma has been run with business interests being prioritized at the expense of: public health; public safety; social support services; equity and racial justice; our waters, wetlands and aquifers; tree canopy and greenspaces; and taking meaningful action to combat the climate crisis.

The evidence of the current City Manager, and City Government under her control, blatantly ignoring public wishes and outcry are too many to fully list. A few examples include:

1) Allowing the Bridge Industrial warehouse to move forward with a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance, bypassing a Health Impact Assessment and deep analysis of the potential impacts to the environment and aquifer below. Despite the fact that many South Tacoma residents already have a 25 year lower life expectancy. Despite public outcry and demonstrations. Despite the EPA, WA Dept of Ecology, WA Dept of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, and Puget Sound Clean Air Agency all sending letters to the City acknowledging this project to be an environmental justice concern that warranted a Health Impact Assessment, long before the City deemed the lives of this already overburdened community "non-significant".

2) Allowing Puget Sound Energy's recent expansion plans for bunker barging to be approved as a permit revision, without any public comment opportunity, without any additional health and safety analysis. Written promises by City staff and on the City's FAQ page about the facility explicitly promised both public input and additional permits would be

needed if bunkering was expanded. This slap in the face came on the heels of years of massive public outcry, demonstrations, vigils, and non-violent direct actions against the original permits for the LNG fracked gas refinery. All while the Puyallup Tribe continued to fight the permit's approval in court.

3) Save Tacoma Water gathered enough signatures to put an initiative on the ballot that required that any business using more than 1 million gallons of water a day would need a vote of the people to be approved. The City decided to sue these residents and pull the initiative from the ballot rather than allow people to protect our most basic and necessary resource.

4) In 2017, the City of Tacoma declared a public health state of emergency as a result of homeless encampments. Seven years later, the City has spent massive amounts of public funds on the violent sweeps of our houseless neighbors, giant boulders, and enacting camping bans. None of these "solutions" actually address the root causes of homelessness, or create additional public/low-income housing.

5) The City Manager has authority over the Tacoma Police Department. The public outcry and demonstrations calling for the officers who killed Manny Ellis to be fired were ignored for four years. Creating a potentially unsafe situation for residents who might come into contact with these officers, especially residents who are Black and Brown. This lack of accountability also sends a message to other local officers that ignoring pleas of "I can't breathe" is an acceptable use of force in the City of Tacoma.

6) Public Participation and feedback have been limited, discouraged and ignored. The time allowed for speakers during public forum has been reduced to just 60-90 seconds per speaker, twice a month, with additional rules including "no clapping" enacted to mask agreement by others in the chamber. Notification, consultation, and power of the Neighborhood Councils was vastly reduced in 2019. The public does not receive data about the effectiveness of policies like the camping ban, programs like the police oversight committee, or zoning changes, after they are enacted. Communities most affected by these decisions are not interviewed about their views on effectiveness or additional actions needed.

Accountability is necessary to keep power from corrupting those who hold it. We need your help in bringing the city we all love to function under a structure that's responsive to the people living here, and that protects our environment for generations to come.



City of Tacoma
Office of the City Clerk

March 29, 2024

NOTICE

CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING

A quorum of the Charter Review Committee will attend the City Council study session on Tuesday, April 2, 2024, at Noon, to present an overview of their work and recommendations for consideration.

The City Council study session will be conducted in a hybrid format that includes an in-person component and a remote option. To attend in person, the study session will be held at the Tacoma Municipal Building, in the Council Chambers, located at 747 Market Street. The study session can be attended remotely by dialing 253-215-8782 or through Zoom at www.zoom.us/j/89496171192, and entering the meeting ID 894 9617 1192, and passcode 896569 when prompted. The study session will also be available live on TV Tacoma and Facebook.

Agendas, minutes, and notices of the Charter Review Committee can be found www.cityoftacoma.org/charterreview.


Nicole Emery
City Clerk



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