



# City of Tacoma

## Charter Review Committee Minutes

April 2, 2024

12:30 p.m.

747 Market Street, Tacoma WA 98402, Council Chambers  
Webinar Link: [www.zoom.us/j/89496171192](https://www.zoom.us/j/89496171192) Dial: 253-215-8782  
Meeting ID: 894 9617 1192 Passcode: 896569

### Special Meeting

#### Call to Order

The special meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m.

#### Roll Call

**Present: 8** – Katie Baird, Nicholas Carr, Patrick Fischer, Melissa Malott, Latasha Palmer, Andrea Reay, Rebecca Stith, and Stephen Wamback

**Absent: 7** – Maricres Castro, Silong Chhun, Bryan Flint, Jason Gauthier, Andre Jimenez, Diamatris Winston, and Lok Yin Wu

Committee Member Flint arrived at 12:19 p.m. and participated virtually.

#### Briefing Items

##### Overview of Work and Recommendations Presentation

At approximately 12:01 p.m., Chair Wamback and Charter Review Committee (CRC) Members introduced themselves to Council. Chair Wamback then provided a brief background on the Committee's process and concepts that arose as the Committee went through reviewing the Charter such as accountability, equity, and clarity. Chair also mentioned the inclusion of visionary and prescriptive elements in the Charter and the approach taken by the Committee in prioritizing Charter topics. He then talked about the formation of five issue focused Subcommittees which are the Administrative Subcommittee to look at the administrative or executive branch of government; the Public Utilities Subcommittee will focus on Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) and TPU Board sections of the Charter; Power of the People Subcommittee will explore democratic elements in the Charter; Police Accountability Subcommittee will explore aspects of the Charter that could bring community together and promote public safety; and the Miscellaneous Subcommittee explores topics that don't necessarily fit into a similar category. The Committee as a Whole decided to tackle the roles and responsibilities of the Council and form of government together but as work progressed, the Form of Government Subcommittee was formed to focus solely on the topic. Chair Wamback then reviewed the proposal format, number of recommendations, CRC meetings schedule, and staff support.

Committee Member Flint arrived here, at 12:19 p.m.

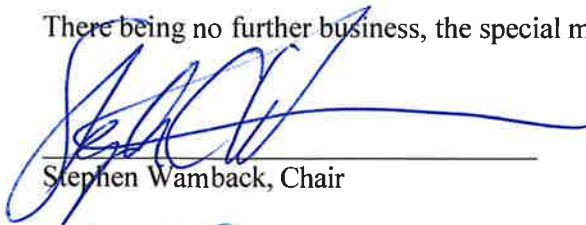
Discussion ensued on a brief high-level overview of the recommendations the CRC is bringing forward and how Council can be helpful with CRC's work.

Chair Wamback then continued with a high-level overview of CRC's work plan noting topics including land acknowledgement; form of government; term limits; empowering through a full-time City Council and the ability to hiring staff independent from the City Manager; salary commission; outdated use of the words citizen and freeholder; employment eligibility requirements; City's official newspaper; Landmarks Preservation Committee; internet as part of TPU, expanding TPU board membership, and a shared services audit; clarifying the use of "purposes of inquiry" language in the Charter; modernize anti-discrimination language; permissive language on ranked-choice voting; hiring of the City Attorney; membership and composition of the Planning Commission; disposition of City owned waterfront property; Police Accountability and oversight committee; initiative and referendum process; campaign finance policy and procedure; time allotted for the future review of the Charter; addition of Neighborhood Councils and a Climate Commission in the Charter; and removal of Humane Society section in the Charter.


Mayor Woodards thanked the Committee, Chair Wamback, and staff on their Charter work. Discussion continued on possibly grouping the recommendations; ballot requirements; volume of recommendations; the Committee's top priorities; if a recommendation should be included in the Charter or be passed as legislation; public sentiment on issues; timing on when recommendations can be added to the ballot; voter apathy/fatigue; continued Charter work beyond their allotted timeframe; state requirements on the creation of two new Committees; due diligence done on the recommendations; ballot process for previous Charter amendments; process of prioritization; reflecting community values in the Charter; educating and engaging the public on complex topic; legislating through the Charter; natural alignment of recommended topics; Library Board; and fiscal cost, noting the timeline and impact of the recommendations.

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the special meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m.



Stephen Wamback, Chair



Joan Taverna, City Clerk's Office