

COUNCIL GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

July 13, 2016

5:00 P.M. TO 6:15 P.M.

EVERETT CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

In attendance: Council member Paul Roberts, Chair, Council member Cassie Franklin, Council member Scott Bader, Bob Bolerjack, Jim Iles, Deb Williams.

Audience: Council Vice President Judy Tuohy, Council President Scott Murphy. Guests: Tom Norcott, Megan Dunn and Herald Reporter Chris Winters.

Introductions made by Paul Roberts. Audience members were reminded this is a subcommittee they are welcome to observe but questions or comments need to be directed to the full council meeting immediately following. This allows the Council as a whole to be engaged.

Selection of Subcommittee Chair postponed as Council member Scott Bader was detained due to traffic and would be arriving late.

Bob Bolerjack and Jim Iles provided a brief report on City Council's role and the Charter Review Process. They provided a list of actions City Council may take:

Take action on the 3rd and final reading of the ordinance July 13, 2016 at 6:30.

Postpone the 3rd and final reading and propose new amendments to the existing proposed ordinance. Action must be taken no later than July 27, 2016 to make County election cut off requirements.

Council must decide if they are going to place any propositions on the ballot in regular election at a cost of \$35,000 to \$40,000.00 depending on how many cities participate.

They may hold a special election at a cost of approximately \$100,000.00.

Council can choose to take no further action.

Before moving forward in discussion, Council member Franklin moved to have Council member Roberts continue as chair, seconded by Council member Bader who arrived during item 2 discussions. Council member Roberts selected as 2016-2016 General Government Subcommittee Chair.

Review of the Charter Review Committee recommendations. Chair Roberts suggested more specific language related to the number of meetings added to Section 3.2 recommendation. Language provided by Jim Iles:

The City Council shall meet regularly, **at least 48 times per year**, ~~once each week~~ at the City Hall within the corporate limits of the City at such times as may be fixed by ordinance or **resolution**. At least one of such regular meetings shall be held each month in the evening after 6:30 p.m. **The Council President may, subject to the requirement of 48 regular meetings per year, cancel a regular meeting because of weather, lack of quorum, insufficient meeting agenda items, proximity to holidays or other suitable reason.**

Further discussion followed including changing the language "Council President" to "Council President or the Presiding Officer" may cancel a meeting. Aspirational language drafted by City Attorney's office regarding "the intent of the City Council is to meet a minimum of 48 times a year." All Subcommittee members concur with the recommendation that all city boards, commissions and committees should strive to reflect the makeup of the community in demographic terms such as ethnic diversity, gender age and geography.

Discussion as to how the Subcommittee wishes to proceed to examine minority recommendations from the Charter Review Committee including but not limited to the issue of Council Districts/Citizen Involvement and Representation and creating a Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee. Dealing with the Citizen Transportation Advisory Committee, Jim Iles explained the Council General Government Subcommittee can work on a possible ordinance.

The larger topic of districting was a more expanded discussion. Chair Roberts will work with the Council President to schedule a series of meetings on the 2 additional topics. The first would examine data and voter history, and work to define the problem we are attempting to address; the issues associated with citizen representation and council districts. The Subcommittee anticipated additional meetings would be required and scheduled. A second meeting would focus on the consideration of creating a Citizen's Transportation Advisory Committee, and any other matters raised by the Charter Review Committee or City Council members.

Chair Roberts clarified this committee can move forward at the appropriate pace, Council can request further amendments to the charter or ask the charter review committee to reconvene at any time. They are not limited to a charter amendment or charter review every ten years.

As noted, additional meetings will likely need to be scheduled to address specifics related to citizen representation and districts. At some future point, the Subcommittee anticipates reporting back to the full city council and providing an opportunity for citizen input and testimony.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.