

MINUTES OF SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

City Council Chambers
July 12, 1973

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Present on roll call: 7 - Egan, Herrmann, Moss, Nalley, Schuur, Sonntag,
Mayor Johnston. Absent: 1 - Jarstad. (One Council Vacancy)

Mayor Johnston then announced that this was the first of two special public hearings called by the Council to hear public testimony on the findings and recommendations of the citizens Charter Review Committee. He said the second public hearing will be held next Thursday, July 19, 1973 at 7 p.m. in the Council Chambers, at which time additional testimony may be brought before the City Council. He said he would contemplate no action by the Council until the proposed charter changes are presented for first reading before the Council in ordinance form.

Mayor Johnston said he has received two communications from parties wishing to present testimony at the hearings, one from the Tacoma Municipal League and the other from Mr. Gerald Lynch, an attorney representing Mountain View Memorial Park. He stated, however, that Mr. Lynch will be unable to attend tonight's meeting and requested to be heard at the following hearing next Thursday.

In response to a question by Councilman Sonntag, City Attorney, Robert Hamilton, stated that it would be his department's recommendation that no amendment be submitted changing the title of the City Manager to City Administrator because of the problems involved.

The City Clerk then read the proposed new section 2.1, to which Mayor Johnston commented that this particular section was in preparation for changes outlined in Section 5.4 regarding the election of Councilmen by districts.

There was no further comment.

The City Clerk then read Section 2.1 (part). Mr. Quinby Bingham, representing the Tacoma Municipal League, rose to suggest that the word "consecutive" be inserted after the word "eight" in line two, which would allow former Councilmen and Mayors to run for public office at some later time after having served for one or two terms.

There was no further comment.

The City Clerk then read proposed Section 2.2. City Attorney, Robert Hamilton, said the major change in this proposal was reducing the residency requirement of Council candidates from three to two years. In addition, the section changed the last sentence of the existing section to allow Councilmen to not hold any other

elective public office, whereas the existing language denotes only "public office."

Following a brief discussion by the City Council on procedures of the meeting, it was agreed that the City Clerk would not continue to read each proposed new section, but that the Council allow all citizens in the audience to be heard on their particular sphere of interest.

Mr. Quinby Bingham, representing the Municipal League, then presented the Council with a two page statement from the League with a list of 20 statements on the proposed charter amendments, which he discussed in detail as to the League's position on each item. A copy of the statement was placed on file with the City Clerk.

At the request of Mayor Johnston, Mrs. Pat Lewis, President of the Municipal League, agreed to review the letter of request from Attorney Gerald Lynch regarding a change in the Charter regarding cemeteries. Mrs. Lewis said she will have the League's committee study the letter and suggestion and make a report at next week's meeting.

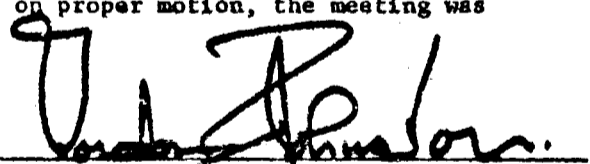
Mr. Hugh Williamson, member of the Charter Review Committee, reviewed the committee's reasoning for its recommendations regarding Section 3.8 with regard to the City Planning Commission. He submitted a copy of a letter from Norman Wall, Chairman of the Planning Commission, which was directed to the Charter Review Committee. The letter specifically recommended the following changes that the number of the members be established at "at least nine", that the length of term of Commission members be changed from six to four years, and that the Chief Engineering Officer of the City, the Director of Utilities, or officer designated by him, should serve as non-voting members of the Commission.

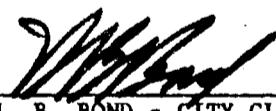
Mr. Williamson also stated that the reason the requested Charter change by Mountain View Memorial Park was not incorporated in this list of suggestions was that it affected only one establishment and was not a community wide concern.

Mrs. Anita Londgren, representing the League of Women Voters, stated that she has a prepared statement, but she would prefer to make it at next week's hearing.

Mr. Rodney Mewhirter, a citizen, spoke against the procedures whereby the citizen's committee recommendations were made.

There being no further business and on proper motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.


GORDON JOHNSTON - MAYOR

ATTEST: 
H. B. BOND - CITY CLERK

