



## City of Portland Charter Commission Agenda

Charter Commission Procedures Committee  
February 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM

1. Zoom

a.

This meeting will take place remotely using Zoom.

This meeting will be held remotely pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Charter Commission and as authorized under 1 M.R.S. 403-B because of the existence of an emergency or urgent issue that requires the committee to meet by remote methods. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live, a recording will be available in the Agenda Center following the meeting.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Feb 8, 2022 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Charter Commission Procedure Committee

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://portlandmaine-gov.zoom.us/j/83832987432?pwd=ZEZPdWlRcUpaZ3VlSVIxaEhabzBndz09>

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Or One tap mobile :

US: +13017158592,,83832987432#,,, \*187825# or  
+13126266799,,83832987432#,,, \*187825#

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2. Call to Order

3. Review and Approval of Minutes from DATE

- a. Approval of the draft 1-11-2022 and 1-25-2022 meeting minutes.
- 4. Discussion of Councilors Pay Proposal
  - a. a. Public Comment
- 5. Discussion of Participatory Budget
  - a. a. Public Comment
- 6. Updates on Citizen Initiatives and Charter Copy editing projects.
- 7. New Business
- 8. Adjourn

Jan. 25 Procedures Committee

Present: Barowitz, Kebede, Waxman, Washburn

Minutes and agenda were sent to the city clerk Jan. 13 but were not posted. Postponing tonight's agenda items so that we can allow the public time to study them before we discuss them and solicit public comment.

Items still to be taken up

- Copyedit of charter – Zack and Pat to work together on this. Pat to set up a copy.
- Citizen initiatives – we heard from Kim Cook and Eamonn Dundon. Zack to contact Eamonn re new version of his proposal. Maybe involve Elections Commission? Pat to contact Elections Committee re joint meeting.

Adjourned 6:20 p.m.

Portland Charter Commission Procedures Committee Meeting January 11 2022 6 PM Zoom

Meeting was called to order by Chair Washburn at 6:05

Roll Call present - Commissioners Kedebe, Washburn , Barowitz and Waxman all present

Commissioner Waxman moved passage of minutes from last meeting

Commissioner Kedebe

all were in favor - motion passed

### **First Item of Business**

#### **Presentation of Revised Pay Structure for City Councilors - Commissioner Washburn**

Public Comment open

Public Comment closed

Motion to discuss by Commissioner Barowitz - second Commissioner Kedebe

Discussion followed

Commissioner Waxman moved to send proposal to staff attorney Kasificas for review

Commissioner Barowitz second

All were in favor by roll call

### **Second Item of Business**

#### **Code of Ethics and Disclosure Rules - Commissioner Barowitz**

Commissioner Waxman moved passage for discussion

Commissioner Kedebe second

All were in favor

Public Comment open

Public Comment closed

Request to have this posted on website for public viewing . Commissioner Waxman moved to table until next meeting. Commissioner Barowitz second .

All were in favor to table .

### **Third item of Business**

#### **Communication Policy for City Staff and Elected Officials - Commissioner Kedebe**

Commissioner Waxman moved passage for discussion - Second by Commissioner Barowitz

Discussion followed

Commissioner Waxman moved to send proposal to full commission for review . Commissioner Washburn suggested review by Staff Attorney Kasificus. Motion amended to reflect review and then will be sent to full commission. All were in favor .

### **Motion to Adjourn - Commissioner Kedebe Second Commissioner Barowitz .**

**All were in favor**

**Meeting ended at 6:59 PM**



## **Draft Language for a Charter Provision Governing Compensation for City Council Members**

FROM: Patricia Washburn

TO: Portland Charter Commission Procedures Committee, Commissioners Kebede, Waxman, and Barowitz

DATE: Dec. 29, 2021

RE: Compensation for City Council Members

Add to Section 2, City Council:

All Portland citizens should be able to serve in elected office, regardless of age or wealth. Thus, the city must to appropriately compensate councilors to improve access to public office, create more competition and greater choice for voters, and as a safeguard against corruption.

Each member of the City Council shall therefore be paid based on the estimation that researching proposals, meeting with and responding to constituents, and preparing for and participating in council and committee meetings shall require an average of 20 hours a week of work. Councilor pay will be set at \$17 an hour for that work as of the year of adoption of this measure, to be subject to the same cost-of-living increases provided to all non-union employees of the city.

Nothing in this provision shall alter city councilors' access to benefits including health insurance and retirement.

By definition Participatory Budgeting is the democratic deliberation and decision-making in which ordinary people decide how to allocate part of a municipal or public budget including the CIP. The frameworks of PB differentiate variously throughout the globe in terms of scale, procedure, and objective. PB, in its conception, is often contextualized to suit a regions' particular conditions, land needs and the economic health of the City or Town so there can be vast variations.

Attached please find Joey Brunelle's Reinventing Democracy which includes a list of projects completed with PB in various municipalities. I also direct your attention to an amazingly intuitive and clear website that reflects the success of a PB approach in Cambridge, MA:

<https://pb.cambridgema.gov/>

As noted above, in researching the issue, I discovered that the model designs, methodology and process vary widely with many different approaches depending on the identified process that best fits the needs of the community. Therefore, I have come to the conclusion, after much research, that it is best that we look at how the Portland City Council and School Board can work together collaboratively to come up with a program model that best fits each of their needs and allows them to function as described in the definition above. To this end, I submit to the Procedures Committee for your consideration the proposed language below:

## Participatory Budgeting in Municipal/School Budgets

### PROGRAM PILOT

The City Council and School Board will jointly create and implement a process whereby community members decide how to spend a dedicated portion of public funds.

As a first step, the City Council and School Board will create a set of guiding principles with clear objectives and well defined outcomes. These objectives should be established with the collaboration of three City Council members and three School Board members in a 6 person Task Force structure. Once the guiding principles are in place, the PB Task Force will design a structure with timelines, content and outline of a process to be enacted for both the City Council and School Board members to follow with all voices of the neighborhoods included. The completed process should result in creation of a healthy, safe and empowering voice for each of Portland's neighborhoods.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS (DRAFT)

First suggestion is that we take all existing At-Large Council seats and convert to three district seats making a total of 8 districts in Portland. This would give each District Councilor approximately 8,324 neighbors within those districts. The same could be done for the school districts. Seeing school board members working in tandem with CC members is something that has worked in the past organically. If it is done uniformly it might work really well.

The express intent is that smaller districts would give Councilors a better opportunity to be on the ground and have a real hands on relationship with voters - citizens and neighbors in the district. This will encourage brilliant opportunities to listen to the voice of the voters-citizens and neighbors in their districts. They will have the opportunity to bring real issues right from the neighborhood to the whole Council, Mayor and staff to better inform policy makers on building good lasting policies for our diverse and vibrant city.

Working with the city staff, the Council would determine a set amount of revenue for each district that would be allocated in each budget year. This can be done with budget lines in both the CIP and well as the general municipal budget.

### Structure and Process

City Councilors, with guidelines established by the task force, will set District meetings in Spring and fall with their entire district including all neighborhood, park and civic organizations to delve into the needs in that district and prioritize where the allotments would be spent in their respective districts. This could be done at a local school and become a traditional neighborhood gathering for the district.

After careful workshop review of district needs and priorities by the in the form of a list of potential projects, each Participatory Budget committee would:

- Identify specific sources of discretionary funds (not funds that are already committed for essential or fixed costs);
- Create a plan for implementation and monitoring
- Each year review outcomes and improve process through community dialogue and continue this process building the original allocated funds by 1.5 % each year.