

Minutes for Charter Commission Procedures Committee
2/8/2022

1. Call to order 6:17pm

2. Approval of Minutes

Moved by Councilor Waxman, seconded by Commissioner Kebede. Passes unanimously.

3. Councilor Pay proposal

Public Comment period:

Karen Snyder, this should be in the code. Hourly rate can be abused and can be a pathway to corruption. Civic duties should not be compensated.

Commissioner Waxman: not supportive. Believes this rule does not belong in the charter, but belongs instead in the code.

Commissioner Barowitz: shares some of Commissioner Waxman's concerns.

Kebede moves passage, Barowitz seconds. Discussion followed. Meeting briefly ends due to technical issue.

Kebede: speaks in favor, largely. Some edits suggested.

Public comment again:

Valerie Kelly: will this remove the city council's authority to edit their own compensation?

Karen Snyder: "multiplied by 20 hours per week in office"

Joey Brunelle: be mindful of the interaction between stipend and healthcare benefits.

Commissioner Waxman calls a vote on the proposal.

Commissioner Waxman: councilors can give themselves a raise, I do not believe this belongs in the charter.

Commissioner Barowitz: giving themselves a raise creates the appearance of a conflict of interest.

Commissioner Kebede: let's ask councilors.

Vote: commissioners Washburn, Kebede, and Barowitz vote yes. Commissioner Waxman opposes. Proposal is forwarded to full commission by a 3-1 vote.

4. Participatory Budgeting

Commissioner Waxman describes her participatory budgeting (PR) proposal.

Public Comment:

Joey Brunelle: there are best practices for Participatory Budgeting. No need to spell out too many details in charter. Available if you need my expertise.

Karen Snyder: what's the 1.5% figure in the proposal?

Discussion followed.

Joey Brunelle speaks again. Says permanent steering committee is generally set up for a PB steering process.

Commissioners Waxman and Kebede to work on a very streamlined PR proposal.

6. Updates on Citizen Initiatives and Charter Copy editing projects.

Nothing.

7. New Business

Commissioner Barowitz says there will be an ethics and oversight proposal on February 22nd.

Commissioner Waxman: we need deadlines so we can finish our work on time.

8. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by Waxman, seconded by Barowitz. Unanimous vote.