

MEETING MINUTES
City of Spokane
Special Meeting on Spokane Transit Authority Topics
(held in a study session format)
November 14, 2023

Call to Order: 12:11 p.m.

Attendance:

Committee Members Present: Council President Kinnear, Council Members Wilkerson, Stratton, and Zappone.

Committee Members Absent: Council Members Bingle, Cathcart, and Oelrich.

Others Present: Mike Piccolo, Ginny Ramos, Mark Carlos, and Giacobbe Byrd.

Agenda Items:

1. 2024 Budget Discussion

Council President Kinnear, City of Spokane

- Council President Kinnear talked about rules of procedure and the proposed process for recommending that a board member be replaced by its appointing jurisdiction.
- CP Kinnear said that she is not supportive of any rule that would require the City of Spokane Members to recuse themselves when considering requesting removal of a City of Spokane board member during a meeting.
- CP Kinnear expressed concern about organizational stagnation, and talked about how she does not want to see the STA board continue to be a rubber stamp.

Council Member Wilkerson, City of Spokane

- Council Member Wilkerson asked fellow Council Members for clarity around when and how executive sessions can be called.
- CM Wilkerson asked for clarity around attorney client privilege with the STA Board attorney.
- CM Wilkerson said that she is looking for more consistency on when STA board members can weigh in on things like waiving STA fares during freezing temperatures.

Council Member Stratton, City of Spokane

- Council Member Stratton asked if Board Operations members were having executive sessions and said that she would like to

ask STA for clarity about whether Council President Kinnear can share information from those meetings.

- CM Stratton suggested requesting an external audit of the STA organization as a whole by an outside consultant, lead by concerns raised by STA board members.

Council Member Zappone, City of Spokane

- Council Member Zappone said he would like to make a motion to add evaluation of complaints or charges brought against a public officer or employee at the upcoming STA executive session.
- CM Zappone said there is a culture of not talking about what STA board members can and cannot do.
- CM Zappone reviewed Rule 2.9 in the STA rules of procedure. He said he would like a legal opinion on the proposed Rule 2.9. CMs Zappone, Kinnear, and Wilkerson all expressed frustration with lack of clarity about the line between policy and operations.
- CM Zappone then reviewed Article III Sec. 3.1 of the STA bylaws and noted that it provides the board a broad scope.
- CM Zappone noted that STA has sufficient finances to fund a comprehensive audit of the organization.
- CM Zappone then reviewed Article V Sec. 1 and Sec. 2 of the STA bylaws and noted that it again provides the board a broad scope.
- CM Zappone suggested adding a review of bylaws with the board at the December 2023 STA board meeting.
- CM Zappone said he would like to also like to amend rules of procedure to allow all board members to attend and provide suggestions at committee meetings. He noted that this would require an adjustment to the way the committee meetings are noticed. He said he will try to get that amendment language distributed to the whole STA board as soon as possible.

➤ Action taken:

No action taken. Presentation and discussion only.

Executive Session:

None

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Minutes prepared and submitted for publication in the November 22, 2023, issue of the Official Gazette.

Giacobbe Byrd

Giacobbe Byrd
Director, Council Office

Approved by City Council on November 20, 2023.

Betsy Wilkerson

Betsy Wilkerson
City Council President

Attest:

Terri L. Pfister

Terri L. Pfister
City Clerk