

**WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**  
Record of Proceedings  
Regular Meeting of February 9, 2015

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Level Conference Room, 322 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham, Washington.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: Ken Bell, Todd Donovan, Chet Dow, Ben Elenbaas, Joe Elenbaas, Yvonne Goldsmith, Wes Kentch, Eli Mackiewicz, Richard May, Jon Mutchler, Barbara Ryan, Eileen Sobjack, Thomas Stuen, Alie Walker

Absent: Cliff Langley

**3. FLAG SALUTE**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

The following people spoke:

- DoraLee Booth invited the Commission to hold a meeting in Birch Bay.
- Stony Bird spoke on proportional representation.
- Karl Uppiano read from his testimony (*on file*) regarding equitable representation by district.
- Bob Burr spoke about the commissioners serving impartially.
- Gene Goldsmith submitted handouts (*on file*) and spoke about a proposed amendment regarding diversity and County Council term limits.
- Roger Brown referenced his email to commissioners (*on file*) and spoke on the pay differential between the Executive and Council.
- Larry Quinliven spoke about district-only voting.
- Carol Perry submitted an handout (*on file*) and spoke about including language in the Charter putting restrictions on charitable donations from the County's general fund.
- Delaine Clizbe spoke about district-only voting and adding residency requirements for County councilmembers and the County Executive.
- Debbie Adelstein stated she is available for questions during the discussion of the proposed amendments.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 26, 2015**

Mutchler moved to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried 13-0-1 with no discussion. Commissioner May abstained.

**6. DISCUSS AND APPROVE REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETING SCHEDULE AND LOCATION(S)**

1  
2  
3 Elenbaas moved to approve the schedule as proposed. The motion was seconded.  
4

5 Mackiewicz moved to amend to strike "optional" from the Sudden Valley meeting and  
6 schedule a meeting in the Sudden Valley area. The motion was seconded.  
7

8 The motion to amend failed 1-12-1 with Mackiewicz in favor and Stuen abstained,  
9 with discussion.

10  
11 The main motion carried unanimously, with discussion.  
12

13  
14 **7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE TO AMEND THE RULES OF ORDER**  
15

16 Joe Elenbaas moved to adopt a policy that motions that come before the body and  
17 receive a second are referred to the clerk without a vote for scheduling at the next meeting  
18 as old business. Any amendments submitted in writing between meetings should be sent to  
19 the Commission Chair, Secretary, and Clerk. Those items will not have a second, and the  
20 Clerk will schedule those items on the agenda as new business.  
21

22 Stuen moved to amend to add a sentence to the motion, "The commission shall  
23 schedule the vote on the amendments at one of the last three commission sessions." The  
24 motion was seconded.  
25

26 Stuen's motion to amend failed 5-9, with discussion. Commissioners Mackiewicz,  
27 May, Ryan, Stuen, and Walker in favor.  
28

29 Donovan moved to amend the motion to include a policy that amendments are  
30 moved and seconded as new business at one meeting, scheduled and discussed as old  
31 business at a second meeting, and voted on as old business at a third meeting. This policy  
32 would apply through April. The motion was seconded.  
33

34 Donovan's motion to amend failed 6-7-1, with discussion. Commissioners Bell,  
35 Donovan, Ryan, Stuen, May, and Walker in favor. Commissioner Mackiewicz abstained.  
36

37 The main motion from Joe Elenbaas carried 13-1 with Stuen opposed.  
38

39 Ben Elenbaas stated that as Chair, he will automatically schedule on the next agenda  
40 any proposed amendments that are moved and seconded.  
41

42 Joe Elenbaas moved that all amendments that have been voted on and approved  
43 continue to be listed on the agenda for each subsequent meeting as an item of old business.  
44 Allow every Commissioner to make a motion to reconsider any item of old business. If that  
45 motion to reconsider receives a second, a two-thirds majority vote in favor is required. The  
46 motion was seconded.  
47

48 The motion carried unanimously.  
49

50 *(Clerk's Note: The Commission took break from 8:15 p.m. to 8:27 p.m.)*  
51

52  
53 **8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON SUBMITTING PROPOSED CHARTER**  
54 **AMENDMENTS TO VOTERS AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION**  
55

1 Ben Elenbaas passed the gavel to the Vice-Chair. The vice-chair assumed the duties  
2 of the chair.  
3

4 Ben Elenbaas moved to submit a proposed Charter amendment to section 8.20 and  
5 to include the proposed amendment as an item of old business at the next meeting. The  
6 motion was seconded.  
7

8 Joe Elenbaas stated that in his capacity as acting chair, he would forward the  
9 proposed amendment to the next meeting and include it as an item of old business.  
10

11 Ben Elenbaas resumed the duties of the chair.

12  
13 Proposed Amendment #3: Expand the Charter Preamble to affirm the diversity of our  
14 citizens.  
15

16 Mutchler moved to submit his proposed amendment to the Charter Preamble and  
17 include the proposed amendment as an item of old business at the next meeting. The  
18 motion was seconded.  
19

20 Ben Elenbaas stated that in his capacity as chair, he would forward the proposed  
21 amendment to the next meeting and include it as an item of old business.  
22

23 Proposed Amendment #4: Shall the Charter be amended to facilitate voting on initiative and  
24 referendum?  
25

26 Donovan moved to submit his proposed amendment to Charter section 5.40 and  
27 section 5.60 and include the proposed amendment as an item of old business at the next  
28 meeting. The motion was seconded.  
29

30 Ben Elenbaas stated that in his capacity as chair, he would forward the proposed  
31 amendment to the next meeting and include it as an item of old business.  
32

33 Additional proposed amendments:  
34

35 Bell moved to submit his proposed amendment to Charter section 2.14 and include  
36 the proposed amendment as an item of old business at the next meeting. The motion was  
37 seconded.  
38

39 Ben Elenbaas stated that in his capacity as chair, he would forward the proposed  
40 amendment to the next meeting and include it as an item of old business.  
41

42 Goldsmith moved to submit her proposed amendment to create Charter section 6.74  
43 and include the proposed amendment as an item of old business at the next meeting. The  
44 motion was seconded.  
45

46 Ben Elenbaas stated that in his capacity as chair, he would forward the proposed  
47 amendment to the next meeting and include it as an item of old business.  
48

49 Proposed Amendment #1: Shall the Charter be amended to provide for election of council  
50 members within the council district from which the candidate was nominated?  
51

52 - and -  
53

54 Proposed Amendment #2: Shall the Charter in Article 5.40 and Article 5.60 be amended to  
55 increase the "concise statement" limit from 20 words to 40 words?  
56

1 Ben Elenbaas stated proposed amendments one and two would be scheduled for  
2 discussion at the next meeting.  
3

4  
5 **9. OTHER BUSINESS**  
6

7 There was no other business.  
8  
9

10 **10. ADJOURN**  
11

12 Joe Elenbaas moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.  
13

14 The motion carried 13-1-1 with no debate, with Mackiewicz opposed and Langley  
15 absent.  
16

17 The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.  
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19  
20  
21  
22

23 The Commission approved these minutes on February 23, 2015.  
24

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26  
27  
28 Jill Nixon, Recording Secretary  
29

30  
31   
32  
33  
34 Chet Dow, Commission Secretary  
35

  
Ben Elenbaas, Commission Chair