

**Whatcom County
Charter Review Commission**

Meeting Minutes

February 1, 1995

I. Call to Order by Chairperson Kathy Sutter

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Mayor's Board Room, Second Floor, Bellingham City Hall, by Chairperson Sutter.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Keith Ahrens
Danna Beech
Joe Elenbaas (arrived late)
Karen Federick
Yvonne Goldsmith
Don Hansey
Darlene McLeod
Ron Polinder
Mary Scrimsher
Orphalee Smith
Mary Stender
Kathy Sutter
Terry Unger

Absent, but excused:

Georgia Gardner
Ray Radke

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the January 25, 1995 Meeting

Acting Recording Secretary Kerstin M. Bailey read the minutes into the record.

Polinder moved to approve of the minutes as presented.

Motion carried 12 - 0, with Elenbaas, Gardner, and Radke absent.

IV. Open Session

Chairperson Sutter opened the floor for open session.

Since no members of the public wished to speak, Chairperson Sutter closed open session.

V. Confirmation of Secretarial Hiring

Chairperson Sutter reported for the three person team involved in hiring a secretary, as requested by the Commission. This group, as a whole, recommended Kerstin M. Bailey for the position.

Joe Elenbaas arrived at this point in the meeting.

Polinder moved to approve of the recommendation.

Motion carried 13 - 0, with Gardner, and Radke absent.

VI. Format of Town Hall Meetings

Chairperson Sutter recommended that the Commission follow the suggested format, including:

- to have a brief overview and introduction of members,
- to set the length of time for each person to speak, but being flexible,
- to have an agenda set up to do regular work,
- to have a sign up sheet for people who would like to speak,
- to have a member list and copies of the Charter available for the public,
- to have a comment period before and after the bulk of the agenda, gauging the timing by the number of people who want to speak,
- in the last 15 - 20 minutes, give time for people to talk with the Commissioners one to one

Polinder moved to follow Chairperson Sutter's recommendation.

Motion carried 13 - 0, with Gardner, and Radke absent.

County Treasurer Barbara Cory suggested advertising on KGMI.

VII. Continuation of Charter Overview

After a brief pause to ensure proper recording of the meeting, the Commission continued to read through and discuss briefly each section of the Home Rule Charter.

Speakers:

Shirley Forslof, County Auditor

Barbara Cory, County Treasurer

Randall J. Watts, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Chairperson Sutter called for a five minute recess at 8:15 p.m.

At 8:22 p.m., Chairperson Sutter reconvened the meeting. The Commission continued reading and discussing the Home Rule Charter.

Elenbaas moved to ask the question, "Shall the Charter be amended to provide for deletion of all language which is non-essential - in other words, mute - by nature of passage of time?"

Motion carried 7 - 5, with Frederick, McLeod, Polinder, Scrimsher, and Stender opposed, and with Gardner, and Radke absent. Beech abstained.

VIII. Discussion of Next Agenda

Stender moved to begin, as our agenda item for next week, to being going through the Charter, beginning with Article 1 and start our process that way.

Polinder moved to amend the motion, that we begin with Article 1, in the spirit of what Mary is suggesting, and then go to Article 3, and then to Article 2.

Motion, as amended, carried 13 - 0, with Gardner, and Radke absent.

IX. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

X. Adjourn

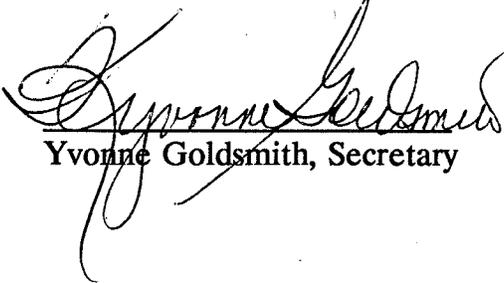
The meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m. by Chairperson Sutter.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerstin M. Bailey
Recording Secretary

WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION



Yvonne Goldsmith, Secretary



Kathy Sutter, Commission Chair