

Agenda for Charter Review Commission Meeting
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., May 17, 1995
Courthouse, 5th Floor, Juvenile Courtroom
311 Grand Ave., Bellingham

Individuals needing information about accessibility or special assistance should please contact the County Council office at 676-6690 at least 48 hours in advance, so that we may make necessary accommodations. Some accommodations, such as assistive listening devices or materials in alternative format may require 7 to 10 days notice.

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of the Agenda
- IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the May 10, 1995 Meeting
- V. Open Session - Public Comments
- VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions (See attached)
 - 1. Hansey, Section 2.20 (e): addition of new subsection allowing the Council to seek outside legal counsel
 - 2. Beech, Section 9.20: requiring the County to follow generally accepted accounting principles and to seek bids on provided services
 - 3. Hansey, New Article 8: making the Planning Department a part of the legislative branch
- VII. Break (8:20 p.m.)
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Discussion of Next Agenda
- X. Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 24, 1995 at 7 p.m. in the County Courthouse Basement, Multi-Purpose Room, 311 Grand Ave, Bellingham.

People are encouraged to write the Charter Review Commission and share their thoughts and concerns. Please mail your comments to: Charter Review Commission, c/o Whatcom County Council Office, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, WA 98225.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE WHATCOM COUNTY
HOME RULE CHARTER
MAY 17, 1995**

1. (Hansey) I move to amend the Charter by adding the following subsection:

Section 2.20 Powers

The County Council shall exercise its legislative power by adoption and enactment of ordinances or resolutions. It shall have the power:

- (a) To levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county.
- (b) To establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and to provide for the reimbursement of expenses, except that no council member may receive a salary increase for the term of office during which the ordinance is adopted, nor shall any council member receive a salary in excess of fifteen (15) percent of that of the County Executive.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided for herein, to establish, abolish, combine and divide by ordinance, non-elective administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities.
- (d) To adopt by ordinance comprehensive plans, including improvement plans for the present and future development of the county.
- (e) To employ legal counsel as allowed by the laws of the State of Washington.

2. (Beech) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 9.20 Purchasing, Contracts, Claims, and Bonds.

The County Council shall by ordinance establish procedures for purchasing supplies, services, materials and equipment, the awarding of contracts, the processing of claims, and the sale or refunding of bonds. The ordinance shall provide when bids shall be required and how invitations for bids shall be advertised; and shall provide that bids shall be required on services provided. The ordinance shall further provide, for purposes of bid preparation, that all County departments employ generally accepted accounting principles of cost accounting in determining the actual total cost of their provision of services.

3. (Hansey) I move to repeal Section 3.22 (e) and to amend the Charter by adding a new Article 8, as follows:

ARTICLE 8 PLANNING AND ZONING

Section 8.10 Purpose

The County Council shall, by ordinance, create and maintain a system of establishing comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, and other land use regulations including capital improvement and economic development plans, for the present and future development of the County.

Section 8.20 Planning Department

The County Council shall, by ordinance, create an office within the legislative branch to assist the County Council in carrying out the purposes set forth in Section 8.10. The implementation of those plans and regulations shall be administered by the Executive branch.

Section 8.30 Planning Commission

The County Council shall, by ordinance, create a Planning Commission to advise the Planning Department and the County Council in carrying out the purposes set forth in Section 8.10. Appointment of the Planning Commission shall be made by the County Council.

{Note: The current Article 8 will become Article 9; other sections will be renumbered appropriately.}