

- 1 • Kris Halterman spoke about district-only voting.
- 2 • Lorraine Newman spoke about district-only voting.
- 3 • David Curley spoke about district-only voting.
- 4 • Dan McShane spoke about district-only voting and creating more than
- 5 three districts.
- 6 • Bob Hicks spoke about district-only voting and commissioner debates
- 7 with speakers.
- 8 • Lisa McShane submitted a handout (*on file*) and spoke about district-
- 9 only voting and the location of district boundaries.
- 10 • Ronna Loerch spoke about district-only voting and removing money
- 11 from elections.
- 12 • James Gibson spoke about district boundaries, the number of districts,
- 13 and the number of proposed amendments that will go on the ballot.
- 14 • Janice Schuch spoke about district-only voting.
- 15 • Patrick Alesse spoke about district-only voting.
- 16 • Karl Uppiano spoke about district-only voting.
- 17 • Roger Murphy spoke about district-only voting.
- 18 • Charles Law spoke about the divisiveness of political campaigns in
- 19 Whatcom County.
- 20 • Adrian Eisinger spoke about district-only voting and community
- 21 projects that include the vehicle development program and Western
- 22 Washington University and waterfront development.
- 23 • Sandy Lawrence spoke about district-only voting.
- 24 • Matthew Goggins spoke about district-only voting and redistricting.
- 25 • Jayson Reimer spoke about district-only voting.
- 26 • Ellen Howard spoke about transparency and whether people are
- 27 listening to public speakers.
- 28 • Dave Onkels spoke about district-only voting.
- 29 • Louanne Chapman spoke about district-only voting.
- 30 • Clarissa Mansfield spoke about district-only voting.
- 31 • Judith Akins spoke about district-only voting.
- 32 • Eric Broussard spoke about district-only voting.
- 33 • Jim Dickinson spoke about district-only voting, the number of Council
- 34 districts, and replacing the County Executive with a County manager.
- 35 • Kathy Kershner spoke about money in elections and district-only
- 36 voting.
- 37 • Grant Steed spoke about district-only voting.
- 38 • Cipriano Maurisio spoke about adding diversity language to the Charter
- 39 Preamble.
- 40 • Pat Hamill spoke about district-only voting.
- 41 • Robert Holt spoke about district-only voting.

42
43 *(The Commission took a break from 8:38 p.m. to 8:54 p.m.)*

- 44
- 45 • L.W. Brown spoke about district-only voting.
- 46 • Matthew Aamot spoke about district-only voting.
- 47
- 48

1 **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MARCH 23, 2015**

2
3 Joe Elenbaas moved to approve the Minutes. The motion was seconded.

4
5 The motion passed by general consent.

6
7 **6. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSED**
8 **CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR VOTERS AT THE NEXT GENERAL**
9 **ELECTION**

10
11 Proposed Amendment 8 from Jon Mutchler: Shall the Charter be amended to
12 provide voter education concerning county officials' election titles by requiring
13 ballots to refer to the Assessor as the "Property Assessor" and the Auditor as the
14 "Auditor and Elections Officer"?

15
16 Motion failed 6-9 with debate, with Donovan, Mackiewicz, May, Mutchler,
17 Ryan, and Walker in favor.

18
19 Proposed Amendment 13 from Eli Mackiewicz: Shall the Charter be amended to
20 include four political parties, instead of two, in the districting process?

21
22 Joe Elenbaas moved to postpone to the next meeting to address questions
23 about allocating votes and implementing language. The motion was seconded.

24
25 The motion carried by general consent.

26
27 **7. OLD BUSINESS: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR VOTERS AT**
28 **THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION**

29
30 *The Commission voted to forward these proposed amendments to Whatcom*
31 *County voters. They were not discussed at tonight's meeting. However, any*
32 *commissioner may move to reconsider these amendments during any meeting.*

- 33
34
- 35 • Proposed Amendment 1 from Joe Elenbaas: Shall the Charter be amended to provide
 - 36 for election of council members within the council district from which the candidate
 - 37 was nominated?
 - 38 • Proposed Amendment 2 from Joe Elenbaas: Shall the Charter in Article 5.40 and
 - 39 Article 5.60 be amended to increase the "concise statement" limit from 20 words to 40
 - 40 words?
 - 41 • Proposed Amendment 3 from Ben Elenbaas: Shall Charter Section 8.20 be amended to
 - 42 prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter amendments on matters that have
 - 43 been approved by a 2/3 majority of voters?
 - 44 • Proposed Amendment 5 from Todd Donovan: Shall the Charter be amended to
 - 45 facilitate voting on initiative and referendum?
 - 46 • Proposed Amendment 6 from Ken Bell: Shall the Charter be amended to apply term
 - 47 limits to the County Councilmembers?
 - 48 • Proposed Amendment 10 from Chet Dow: Shall Charter Section 8.23 be amended to
 - 49 prohibit the County Council from proposing any Charter amendment to Charter
 - sections 2.12 or 2.13?

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2 **8. NEW BUSINESS**
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4 Pending Amendment 12 from Jon Mutchler: Shall the Charter be amended to
5 include a new section to require compliance with the Washington State Open Public
6 Meetings Act and impose a civil penalty on violations of the Act?
7

8 Mutchler moved to forward his revised version to the next meeting as Old
9 Business. The motion was seconded.
10

11 The Chair stated it would be scheduled on the next meeting as Old Business.
12

13 The Commission discussed the option of holding a formal public hearing on
14 proposed Charter amendments.
15

16 Pending Amendment from Todd Donovan and Jon Mutchler: Shall the Charter be
17 amended to lower the threshold requirement for ballot signatures for Whatcom
18 County Charter changes from 20% to 15% for citizen initiatives?
19

20 Mutchler moved to forward to the next meeting as Old Business. The motion
21 was seconded.
22

23 The Chair stated it would be scheduled on the next meeting as Old Business.
24
25

26 **9. ADJOURN**
27

28 Joe Elenbaas moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.
29

30 The motion carried unanimously.
31

32 The meeting adjourned 9:45 p.m.
33

34 The Commission approved these minutes on April 27, 2015
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39 Jill Nixon, Recording Secretary
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44 Chet Dow, Commission Secretary
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Ben Elenbaas, Commission Chair