

1 Michelle Luke spoke about the influence of special interest groups from
2 outside Whatcom County and district-only voting.

3
4 Greg Brown spoke about Proposed Amendment 9 and district-only voting.

5
6 Dr. Elizabeth Benke spoke about district-only voting and the proposed
7 amendment being introduced from Commissioner Kentch.

8
9 Sandy Lawrence submitted a handout (*on file*) and spoke about the proposed
10 coal port and sea level rise.

11
12 James Gibson spoke about the possibility of district-only voting impacting the
13 coal port issue and Proposed Amendment 13.

14
15 Rud Browne, Whatcom County Councilmember, spoke about district-only
16 voting.

17
18 Charles Law submitted a handout (*on file*) and spoke about the common
19 watershed of Whatcom.

20
21 Delaine Clizbe spoke about district-only voting and Proposed Amendment 9.

22
23 Karl Uppiano spoke about district-only voting.

24
25 Laura Falbur spoke about district-only voting.

26
27 Milt Kreiger spoke about district-only voting.

28
29 Diane Foster spoke about district-only voting.

30
31 Jeremiah (*inaudible*) spoke about district-only voting and Proposed
32 Amendment 13.

33
34 Stony Bird spoke about district-only voting and proportional representation.

35
36 (*The Commission took a break from 7:35 p.m. to 7:55 p.m.*)

37
38 **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR APRIL 13, 2015**

39
40 Donovan moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

41
42 The motion was approved by general consent.

43
44 **6. OLD BUSINESS: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE VOTE ON PROPOSED**
45 **CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR VOTERS AT THE NEXT GENERAL**
46 **ELECTION**

47
48 Proposed Amendment 9 from Todd Donovan: Shall the Charter be amended to
49 provide for the election of Councilmembers countywide and by districts from which
50 the candidate was nominated?

1
2 Donovan submitted a revised version of the proposed amendment.

3
4 Joe Elenbaas moved to amend to strike the two at-large positions. The five
5 district positions would remain and comprise the full Council. The motion was
6 seconded.

7
8 Motion to amend failed 6-9 with debate, with Bell, Ben Elenbaas, Joe
9 Elenbaas, Wes Kentch, Cliff Langley, and Eileen Sobjack in favor.

10
11 Motion failed 4-11 with debate, with Donovan, Mackiewicz, May, and Stuen in
12 favor.

13
14 Proposed Amendment 12 from Jon Mutchler: Shall the Charter be amended to
15 include a new section to require compliance with the Washington State Open Public
16 Meetings Act?

17
18 Mutchler moved to amend to strike proposed section 5.15(4). The motion
19 was seconded.

20
21 The motion carried by general consent.

22
23 Bell moved to discuss the amendment informally.

24
25 The motion was not voted on.

26
27 Mutchler moved to amend subsection 2(b): ~~It shall be the policy of Whatcom~~
28 ~~County that all advisory bodies appointed by the County Council, or by the council in~~
29 ~~any ex officio capacity, or by the Executive (including but not limited to public~~
30 ~~commissions, boards, councils, committees and subcommittees)~~ It shall be the policy of
31 Whatcom County that all advisory committees created by County provision or State
32 statue and appointed by the County Council or by the Council in any ex officio capacity
33 or by the Executive be subject to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

34
35 The motion was seconded.

36
37 The motion to amend carried by general consent.

38
39 The main motion to approve as amended failed 5-8-2 with Donovan, Joe
40 Elenbaas, Wes Kentch, Eli Mackiewicz, and Jon Mutchler in favor and Cliff Langley
41 and Richard May abstained.

42
43 Proposed Amendment 13 from Eli Mackiewicz: Shall the Charter be amended to
44 include four political parties, instead of two, in the districting process?

45
46 Mackiewicz submitted and moved to approve a substitute version of the
47 amendment with one amendment, "...appointees will select a fifth an additional
48 member who shall be the Chair...." The motion was seconded.

1 Ben Elenbaas moved to hold and schedule at the next meeting. The motion
2 was seconded.

3
4 The motion carried by general consent.

5
6 Proposed Amendment 14 from Todd Donovan and Jon Mutchler: Shall the Charter
7 be amended to lower the threshold requirement for ballot signatures for Whatcom
8 County Charter changes from 20% to 15% for citizen initiatives?

9
10 This item was held to the next meeting.

11
12
13 **7. OLD BUSINESS: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR VOTERS AT**
14 **THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION**

15
16 *The Commission voted to forward these proposed amendments to Whatcom*
17 *County voters. They will not be discussed at tonight's meeting. However, any*
18 *commissioner may move to reconsider these amendments during any meeting.*

- 19
20
 - Proposed Amendment 1 from Joe Elenbaas: Shall the Charter be amended to provide for election of council members within the council district from which the candidate was nominated?
 - Proposed Amendment 2 from Joe Elenbaas: Shall the Charter in Article 5.40 and Article 5.60 be amended to increase the "concise statement" limit from 20 words to 40 words?
 - Proposed Amendment 3 from Ben Elenbaas: Shall Charter Section 8.20 be amended to prohibit the County Council from proposing Charter amendments on matters that have been approved by a 2/3 majority of voters?
 - Proposed Amendment 5 from Todd Donovan: Shall the Charter be amended to facilitate voting on initiative and referendum?
 - Proposed Amendment 6 from Ken Bell: Shall the Charter be amended to apply term limits to the County Councilmembers?
 - Proposed Amendment 10 from Chet Dow: Shall Charter Section 8.23 be amended to prohibit the County Council from proposing any Charter amendment to Charter sections 2.12 or 2.13?

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34 **8. NEW BUSINESS**

35
36 Pending Amendment from John Mutchler (for Auditor Debbie Adelstein): County
37 Auditor duties and responsibilities amendment.

38
39 Mutchler moved to forward to the next meeting for discussion as old
40 business. The motion was seconded.

41
42 The Chair stated it would be scheduled on the next meeting agenda as old
43 business.

44
45 Pending Amendment from Wes Kentch: Shall the charter be amended to increase
46 transparency in funding between Whatcom County and nonprofit non-government
47 organizations (NGOs)?

48
49 Kentch moved to forward to the next meeting for discussion as old business.
50 The motion was seconded.

1 The Chair stated it would be scheduled on the next meeting agenda as old
2 business.

3
4 Pending Amendment from Richard May: Shall the charter be amended to include a
5 section on districting restrictions?

6
7 May moved to forward to the next meeting for discussion as old business.
8 The motion was seconded.

9
10 The Chair stated it would be scheduled on the next meeting agenda as old
11 business.


12
13 **9. ADJOURN**

14 Ben Elenbaas moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.

15
16 The motion carried by general consent.

17
18 The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

19
20 The Commission approved these minutes on May 11, 2015.

21
22
23
24
25
26 
27 _____
28 Jill Nixon, Recording Secretary

29
30
31 
32 _____
33 Chet Dow, Commission Secretary

30
31 
32 _____
33 Ben Elenbaas, Commission Chair