WHATCOM COUNTY CHARter REVIEW COMMISSION
Record of Proceedings
Regular Meeting of January 26, 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, Cliff Langley, Eli Mackiewicz, Jon Mutchler, Barbara Ryan, Eileen
Sobjack, Thomas Stuen

Absent: Richard May, Alie Walker

3. FLAG SALUTE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

The following elected officials spoke:

Jack Louws, County Executive, thanked the commissioners for their service on the
Commission. He answered questions about and spoke on the division of responsibilities
between the Executive and the other elected officials and the County budget schedule,
separation of powers, and the various departments that the Executive manages.

Debbie Adelstein, County Auditor, submitted and read from a handout of proposals
for the 2015 Charter Review Commission consideration. The Commission asked questions
of the Auditor regarding the proposals.

The following citizens spoke:

Greg Brown spoke about Charter Section 2 regarding legislative acts by ordinance,
including expenditure of the funds collected for the flood control zone district and the
conservation futures fund.

Delaine Clizbe submitted and read from a handout (on file) and spoke about
amending Charter section 2.13 regarding district-only voting and section 8.20 regarding
charter amendments.

Kris Halterman submitted and read from a handout (on file) and spoke about
amending section 5.30 regarding initiative limitations and section 6.65 regarding financial
administration.

Karl Uppiano submitted and read from a handout (on file) and spoke about section
1.11 regarding allowed activity and code requirements.

Larry Nicholas spoke about eliminating the at-large council position, requiring one
councilmember per district, and increasing the number of council districts from three to
seven.
Dave Onkels stated he agrees with Karl Up piano regarding permitted versus
prohibited uses.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 12, 2015

Ryan moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

Page four, line 47 was corrected to reflect Ben Elenbaas’s abstention from the vote.

The motion carried 13-0 without debate.

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

Ryan moved to assign the District 3 meeting locations to the Blaine/Birch Bay area,
Ferndale, and to accept the offer of a meeting by the Lummi Nation at the Lummi
Administration Building.

Joe Elenbaas moved to approve a substitute motion to direct the clerk to provide a
schedule that includes meeting locations discussed, and bring forward a firm proposal to the
Commission for election up or down at the next meeting. The motion was seconded.

The motion to approve a substitute motion carried 9-4 with Ryan, Kentch, Mutchler,
and Bell opposed, with debate.

The Chair ruled the substitute motion out of order as it is not germane to the original
main motion.

Ryan’s motion failed 4-9 with Donovan, Mackiewicz, Ryan and Mutchler in favor, with
debate.

Joe Elenbaas moved to direct the clerk to provide a schedule that includes four
meetings at various locations around the county, and bring forward a firm proposal to the
Commission for election up or down at the next meeting. The motion was seconded.

Donovan moved to amend the motion so the schedule includes meeting locations in
Ferndale, Lynden, Sudden Valley, and to accept the invitation from the Lummi Nation. The
motion to amend was seconded.

The motion to amend failed 6-6-1 with Bell, Ryan, Mutchler, Stuen, Donovan, and
Mackiewicz in favor, with debate. Joe Elenbaas abstained.

Mutchler moved to amend the motion to accept the invitation to have a meeting at
the Lummi Administration Building. The motion was seconded.

The motion to amend failed 5-6-2 with Bell, Ryan, Mutchler, Stuen, and Donovan in
favor. Ben Elenbaas and Joe Elenbaas abstained, with debate.

Bell moved to amend to schedule meetings in Ferndale, Lynden, and Sudden Valley.
The motion was seconded.

The motion to amend carried 7-4-2, with Ryan, Langley, Stuen, and Mackiewicz
opposed. Ben Elenbaas and Joe Elenbaas abstained, with debate.
Elenbaas restated the motion to direct the clerk to provide a schedule that includes four meetings at various locations around the county, including Ferndale, Lynden, and Sudden Valley, and bring forward a firm proposal to the Commission for election up or down at the next meeting.

The motion carried 12-0-1, with Dow abstained, with debate.

Donovan moved to meet on February 23 at the Lummi Administration Building. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried 12-1, with Goldsmith opposed, with debate.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Kentch moved to approve and send the letter of appreciation to Woods Coffee. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried 13-0, with no debate.

(The Commission took a ten-minute break at 8:37 p.m.)

Joe Elenbaas moved to propose a charter amendment, "Shall the Charter be amended to provide for election of Council members within the Council district from which the candidate was nominated." The motion was seconded.

The Chair stated a vote is unnecessary to schedule an item on the agenda. He directed the clerk to include it on the agenda for the next meeting.

Joe Elenbaas submitted a proposed charter amendment, "Shall the Charter in Article 5.4 and Article 5.6 be amended to increase the "concise statement limit" from 20 words to 40 words."

The Chair directed the clerk to include the proposed amendment on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mutchler moved to schedule the two proposed agenda items on the next agenda. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried 13-0 with no debate.

Ryan moved to suspend the rules and require a first and second reading of proposed amendments at two different meetings, with final approval done no sooner than the second meeting. The motion was seconded.

The motion failed 3-9-1 with Stuen, Donovan, and Ryan in favor, with debate. Mackiewicz abstained.

14. ADJOURN

Bell moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.
The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

The Commission approved these minutes on February 9, 2015.

Jill Nixon, Recording Secretary

Chet Dow, Commission Secretary

Ben Elenbaas, Commission Chair