1. CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Civic Center Garden Room, 322 N. Commercial Street, Bellingham.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Ken Bell, Todd Donovan, Chet Dow, Ben Elenbaas, Joe Elenbaas, Yvonne Goldsmith, Wes Kentch, Cliff Langley, Eli Mackiewicz, Jon Mutchler, Eileen Sobjack

Absent: Eli Mackiewicz, Richard May, Barbara Ryan, Thomas Stuen, Alie Walker

(Clerk’s Note: Commissioner Mackiewicz left the meeting during roll call. Commissioner Mutchler arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

3. FLAG SALUTE

Ben Elenbaas spoke about his reasons for calling this special meeting.

Joe Elenbaas spoke about the decision to call the special meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 22, 2015

Joe Elenbaas moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded.

Motion carried 8-0-1 with Donovan abstaining and Mutchler absent.

5. OLD BUSINESS: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS FOR VOTERS AT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

Dan Gibson, Prosecutor’s Office, spoke to the Commission via telephone regarding concerns about conflict with the Washington State Constitution.

Donovan moved to adjourn. The motion was not seconded.

Debbie Adelstein, County Auditor, stated the ballot title for proposition four should incorporate language indicating that the changes reflect State law.

Gibson stated he would work with the Auditor to amend the ballot title.

Joe Elenbaas moved to approve the ballot titles for propositions one and four through eight. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried with discussion 8-0-1 with Donovan abstaining and Mutchler absent.

(The Commission took a break from 7:10 p.m. to 7:40 p.m. Commissioner Mutchler arrived at 7:30 p.m.)

Joe Elenbaas moved to suspend the rules and reconsider proposition two. The motion was seconded.
The motion to suspend the rules and reconsider carried with discussion 9-0-1 with Donovan abstaining.

Joe Elenbaas moved to amend proposition 2, “This measure would amend Charter Section 8.20 to prohibit the County Council, without a 7-0 vote, from proposing Charter amendments....” The motion was seconded.

Mutchler moved to amend the motion to require threshold of at least a 6-1 vote. The motion was not seconded.

The motion to amend carried with discussion 9-0-1 with Donovan abstaining.

Joe Elenbaas moved to approve the proposition as amended. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried with discussion 8-0-2 with Donovan and Mutchler abstaining.

Joe Elenbaas moved to suspend the rules and reconsider proposition three. The motion was seconded.

The motion to suspend the rules and reconsider carried with discussion 9-0-1 with Donovan abstaining.

Joe Elenbaas moved to amend proposition 3, “...Charter limiting the power of the Council, without a 7-0 vote, to propose Charter amendments....” The motion was seconded.

The motion to amend carried with discussion 9-0-1 with Donovan abstaining.

Joe Elenbaas moved to approve the proposition as amended. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried with discussion 8-0-2 with Donovan and Mutchler abstaining.

(Clerk’s Note: Commissioner Donovan left the meeting.)

6. OLD BUSINESS: REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF DRAFT BALLOT TITLES

7. NEW BUSINESS

Approve Charter amendment recommendations to the County Council

Ben Elenbaas moved to approve the memo forwarding the propositions to the County Council, with the amendments to propositions two and three and changes discussed by Prosecutor Gibson and Auditor Adelstein to proposition four. The motion was seconded.

The motion carried 8-0-1 with Mutchler abstaining.

Grant authority to Commission Chair and Commission Secretary to approve the minutes of the final Charter Review Commission meeting

Goldsmith moved to grant minutes approval authority to Chair Ben Elenbaas, Secretary Chet Dow, and Commissioner Donovan.

The motion carried 9-0.
14. **ADJOURN**

Kentch moved to adjourn the meeting sine die. The motion was seconded. The motion carried 8-0-1 with Mutchler abstaining. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The Commission Chair, Commission Secretary, and Commissioner Donovan approved these minutes.

Chet Dow, Commission Secretary

Ben Elenbaas, Commission Chair

Todd Donovan, Commission Member

Jill Nixon, Commission Clerk

Whatcom County Charter Review Commission, 7/6/2015, Page 3