

Agenda for Charter Review Commission Meeting
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., April 12, 1995
Human Resources Training Room, Bellingham City Hall

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 April 5, 1995 Meeting
- V. Open Session - Public Comments
- VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions (See attached)
 - 1. Scrimsher, Section 2.24: definition of legislative non-interference
 - 2. Scrimsher, Section 7.30: clarification of legislative non-interference in the County personnel system
 - 3. Radke, Section 2.10 enforcement of Council's legislative power
 - 4. Scrimsher, Section 6.60: clarification of legislative non-interference in financial matters
 - 5. Smith, Section 2.13: vote by district for the Council at both the primary and the general elections
 - 6. Radke, Section 3.21: establishing a limit of two terms for the Executive
- VII. Break (8:20 p.m.)
- VIII. Other Business
- IX. Discussion of Next Agenda
- X. Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 19, 1995 at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse Basement Multi-purpose Room, 311 Grand Avenue, 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

1. (Mary Scrimsher) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 2.24 - Relationship with Other Branches

Except in the performance of its legislative functions under this Charter, ~~as defined in Section 2.10~~, the County Council, its staff, and individual council members shall not interfere in the administration of the executive and/or ~~administrative branch or executive branch~~. ~~They shall not give orders to or direct, either publicly or privately, any officer, or employee subject to the direction and supervision of the County Executive, executive branch or other elected official.~~

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

Section 7.30 - Administration

The County Executive shall administer the personnel system of the county in accordance with the personnel rules adopted by the County Council by ordinance. ~~Except for setting in place the personnel system and rules, the County Council shall not be involved in the day-to-day administration of the personnel system, except for the employment and supervision of the staff in the legislative branch, or as otherwise provided in this Charter.~~

3. (Ray Radke) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 2.10 - Composition

The Legislative power of the county not reserved to the people ~~or to the County Executive~~ shall be vested in a County Council.

4. (Mary Scrimsher) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 6.60 Consideration and Adoption of the Budget.

Prior to the adoption of any appropriation ordinances for the next fiscal year, the County Council shall hold a public hearing to consider the budget presented by the County Executive and shall hold any other public hearings on the budget or any part thereof that it deems advisable. The Council in considering the appropriation ordinances ~~proposed~~ by the Executive, may delete or add items, may reduce or increase the proposed appropriations and may add provisions restricting the expenditure of certain appropriations; but it shall not change the form of the proposed appropriation ordinances submitted by the Executive. ~~The Council shall not change the form of the proposed annual budget ordinance submitted by the Executive nor use the annual budget ordinance as a vehicle to convey policy directives or to direct the administration of the County.~~ The appropriation ordinances adopted by the County Council shall not exceed the estimated revenues of the county for the next fiscal year for each fund including surpluses and reserves, but the Council may

increase the amount of the estimated revenues contained in the budget presented by the Executive by reestimating the amount by motion passed by a ~~minimum of five (5) affirmative votes~~ majority vote or by creating additional sources of revenue which were not included in the proposed tax and revenue ordinances presented by the Executive. Once the annual budget has been approved, the Executive shall need no further authorization to expend the funds appropriated.

5. (Orphalee Smith) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 2.13 - Election Countywide

The qualified voters of ~~the entire county~~ the specific districts shall vote upon each ~~council member position~~ the Council Members from their respective districts at both the primary election and the November general election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected.

6. (Ray Radke) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 3.21 Election, Term of Office and Compensation.

The County Executive shall be nominated and elected by the voters of the county, and the term of office shall be four years and until the successor is elected and qualified. ~~No individual shall hold this office for more than two full terms.~~ The County Executive shall receive compensation as determined by the County Council. (amended by Referendum 1986)