

**Whatcom County  
Charter Review Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

June 28, 1995

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the County Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, by Chairperson Kathy Sutter.

**II. Roll Call**

Present:

Keith Ahrens  
Joe Elenbaas (arrived late)  
Karen Frederick  
Yvonne Goldsmith  
Don Hansey (arrived late)  
Darlene McLeod  
Ron Polinder  
Ray Radke  
Mary Scrimsher  
Orphalee Smith  
Mary Stender  
Kathy Sutter  
Terry Unger

Absent, but excused:

Danna Beech  
Georgia Gardner

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

Polinder moved to approve the agenda.

Unger seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the June 21, 1995 Meeting**

Unger moved to approve the minutes.

Frederick seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Open Session - Public Comments

The Chair opened the floor for open session.

Speaker: Pat Brown, Administrative Secretary, County Public Works

The Chair closed open session.

VI. Review of Draft Proposed Amendments

{Clerk's note: Elenbaas and Hansey arrived at this point in the meeting.}

Elenbaas moved that we classify Section 1.11 "Citizens' Power".

Frederick seconded the motion.

Elenbaas withdrew his motion.

Elenbaas moved to entitle Section 1.11 "Citizens' Protection".

Unger seconded the motion.

Elenbaas amended his motion, to entitle Section 1.11 "Citizens' Rights".

Main motion, as amended, carried 11 - 2, with McLeod and Stender opposed.

Smith moved that the second sentence of Charter Amendment #1, relating to Section 1.11, will read as follows: "No regulation or ordinance shall be generated without consideration of these rights."

Polinder seconded the motion.

The Chair suspended the motion in order to determine if the motion is in order.

The Chair ruled that the purpose of the Commission, from now until we get the amendments submitted to the Council, is to make sure that none of these amendments are in conflict with other provisions of the Charter, that what we have presented is legal, and that any minor scrivener's errors are corrected.

Elenbaas moved to uphold the stated position of the Chair, as far as what our agenda is tonight.

Radke seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 10 - 3, with Goldsmith, McLeod, and Stender.

The Chair ruled Smith's motion out of order.

Polinder challenged the Chair's ruling.

The Commission upheld the Chair's ruling, 7 - 6, with Goldsmith, McLeod, Radke, Scrimsher, Smith, and Stender opposed.

Elenbaas moved that we go with Bob's suggestion of striking out, in line 10, the words "executive and/or".

Stender seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 12 - 1, with Frederick opposed.

Polinder moved to put Sections 1.50 and 1.51 together.

McLeod seconded the motion.

By consent, the Commission added "and Cooperation of Branches" to the title of Section 1.50, making Section 1.51 only a second paragraph.

Main motion, as amended, carried, 11 - 2, with Frederick and Stender opposed.

Hansey moved that we combine Amendments #5 and #6.

Unger seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 6 - 4, with Frederick, McLeod, Radke, and Scrimsher opposed and Polinder and Smith abstaining.

Elenbaas moved that we move #7, in consistence with all the stuff we've been talking about here, that we move it, retitle it "Section 1.51", and incorporate it with Amendment #4.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 12 - 1, with McLeod opposed.

Smith moved that we delete "of progress" in Amendment #7.

Elenbaas seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Elenbaas moved to take what we have titled 8.25 and combine it with 8.23, as it now is in the Charter, as a second paragraph.

Ahrens seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Smith moved that we change the wording of Section 6.41 to say, "Within six weeks following the end of each quarterly period."

Elenbaas seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 12 - 1, with Stender opposed.

{Clerk's note: the Chair called for a break at this point in the meeting.}

Elenbaas moved that the ballot for this particular amendment include Proposed Amendments 12, 13, and 15.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Elenbaas moved that we combine Amendments #14 and #16, in that they have the same language going in two different sections.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Elenbaas moved that we accept Randy's wording, as opposed to what we have currently.

The Chair read Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor Randy Watts' language as follows:

The 120 day period shall begin upon receipt of official notification to petitioners by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office either by certified mail or messenger. If the last day for collecting signatures falls on a weekend or legal holiday, then the 120 day period shall extend to the end of the next business day.

Polinder seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Hansey proposed that we add technical corrective language to Section 1.30, stating, "The Council shall enact ordinances to implement this amendment. The ordinances shall establish a schedule to provide full implementation within two years from the effective date of this amendment."

Hansey moved that we add those words to the existing proposed Charter Amendment.

Smith seconded the motion.

Smith moved that we change it to 3 years.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion to amend failed, 8 - 4, with Ahrens, Frederick, Goldsmith, and Smith in favor.

Main motion carried, 9 - 4, with McLeod, Polinder, Stender, and Unger opposed.

## VII. Break

The Chair called for a break at 8:20 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

## VIII. Other Business

Ahrens moved that on the ballot the amendments will appear as they will in the Charter.

Radke seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Elenbaas moved that we suspend the rules for the consideration of Proposed Charter Amendments #11 and #17 this evening.

Frederick seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 12 - 1, with Stender opposed.

Polinder moved to eliminate items #11 and #17 from the amendments to the people.

Stender seconded the motion.

Motion carried, 10 - 3, with Frederick, Goldsmith, and Radke opposed.

The Chair requested an updated budget from Budget and Program Analyst Bob Woods.

Budget and Program Analyst Bob Woods offered to draft a resolution and a letter of transmittal to go before the Council.

Polinder requested that the Commission prepare a summary sheet, as was done for the last Commission.

Budget and Program Analyst Bob Woods noted that State Law requires that any produced document about these amendments be either purely factual or balanced pro/con statements.

McLeod asked why the next meeting was moved to Thursday. The Chair noted that the County Council will be meeting on that Wednesday. McLeod also noted that the next meeting will be held in the Mayor's Board Room, not the Chambers.

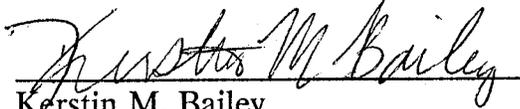
#### IX. Discussion of Next Agenda

Items to be included on the next agenda: call to order, roll call, approval of agenda, approval of minutes, open session, discussion of draft proposed amendments, signing of letter of transmittal, discussion of publication, discussion of August/September meeting, other business, adjourn.

#### X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

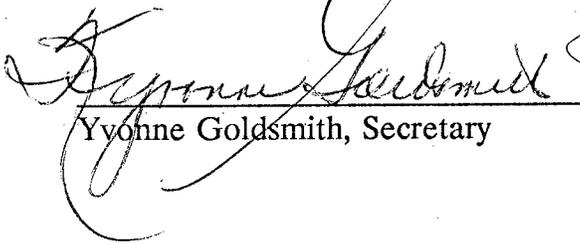
Respectfully submitted,



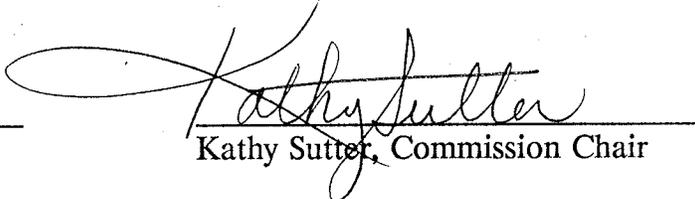
Kerstin M. Bailey  
Recording Secretary

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WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION



Yvonne Goldsmith, Secretary



Kathy Sutter, Commission Chair

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
SPEAKERS AT THE  
JUNE 28, 1995 MEETING

Pat Brown, 1305 West Illinois, Bellingham

671-6788

I live and work in Bellingham; I am a property owner and a voter. I am also an employee of Whatcom County. I have four questions to ask the Commission, regarding the motion to limit the number of county employees to 4 workers for each 1,000 residents.

1. Would you consider setting a 3 to 5 year period for implementation? This would allow for cutting county staff by attrition, as opposed to layoffs. Layoffs will cost the County money also.
2. How does a county voter assess how many county employees are needed to accomplish services, which are required by residents in a county that is continuing to grow and in which growth management regulations mandated by the State must be administered?
3. Does the average resident of Whatcom County have the experience and expertise to understand and decide how the County Council should administer the budget?
4. What information will be provided to the voting public on which to make an informed decision?

I am concerned about the Commission asking voters to decide an issue that will directly limit county government's ability to provide services in a timely and responsible manner, unless you give us an extensive profile of each department, the duties of each department, and substantive information on how these duties are to be carried out. Thank you for your consideration.