

Agenda for Charter Review Commission Meeting
7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., May 10, 1995
Courthouse, 5th Floor, Juvenile Courtroom
311 Grand Ave., Bellingham

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 May 3, 1995 Meeting
- V. Open Session - Public Comments
- VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions (See attached)
 - 1. Radke, Section 1.52: establishing a time frame for the Executive to present an annual report of progress
 - 2. Smith, Section 6.41: establishing a longer time frame for the Executive to submit quarterly reports
 - 3. Gardner, Section 1.40: establishing a County branch office in Point Roberts
 - 4. Gardner, Section 3.23.1: addition of new section "Regional Agent" providing a regional agent for Point Roberts
 - 5. Gardner, Section 3.30: affirming that administrative offices provide services to contiguous as well as noncontiguous areas of the County
 - 6. Gardner, Section 3.52.1: addition of new section "Regional Agent" determining the Regional Agent's powers and duties

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7. Goldsmith, Section 1.51: altering language previously approved by the Commission regarding cooperation of branches
8. Hansey, Section 2.20: creating an office to assist the Council in the development of Comprehensive Plans

VII. Break (8:20 p.m.)

VIII. Other Business

IX. Discussion of Next Agenda

X. Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 17, 1995 at 7 p.m. in the County Courthouse, 5th Floor Juvenile Courtroom, 311 Grand Ave, 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
MAY 10, 1995**

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

Section 1.52 Performance and Strategic Planning

The executive and legislative branches shall engage in long-term strategic planning to establish organizational structure, priorities, and performance measurements.

~~The County Executive shall present an annual report of progress during the first week of May.~~

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

Section 6.41 Budget Control.

~~At the beginning of each quarterly~~ ~~Within six weeks of the end of each quarterly~~ period during the fiscal year, and more often if required, the County Executive shall submit to the County Council a written report showing the relation between the estimated income and expenses and actual income and expenses to date; and if it shall appear that the income is less than anticipated, the Council may reduce appropriations, except amounts required to meet contractual obligations and for debt, interest and other fixed charges, to such a degree as may be necessary to keep expenditures within the cash income.

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

Section 1.40 Name, Boundaries, County Seat, and Classification.

The corporate name of this county shall remain Whatcom County, and it shall have those boundaries provided by the legislature.

The County seat shall be Bellingham, Washington. ~~A branch office shall be established to serve any noncontiguous part of the County which shares a common boundary with Canada and which is surrounded on three sides by water.~~ Additional ~~b~~Branch offices of the county are authorized, and branches hereafter established shall be by ordinance.

Wherever "classification" is significant, this county shall be considered equivalent to a classified county of the class having the population of this county at the time of the last official census.

4. (Gardner) I move to amend the Charter by adding the following section:

Section 3.23.1 Regional Agent

The County Executive shall appoint a regional agent without Council confirmation who shall be responsible for representing the Executive Branch of County Government in any noncontiguous part of Whatcom County which shares a common boundary with Canada and which is surrounded on three sides by water. The Regional Agent shall maintain an office in the specific area to be served.

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

Section 3.30 Administrative Offices.

The administrative offices of Whatcom County shall consist of those agencies of the executive branch which primarily provide administrative services for the various agencies of county government in all contiguous areas of the County as well as in any noncontiguous parts which share a common boundary with Canada and are surrounded on three sides by water.

6. (Gardner) I move to amend the Charter by adding the following section:

Section 3.52.1 Regional Agent

The powers and duties of the Regional Agent shall be set by the County Executive for the purpose of ensuring effective communication between the citizens living in any noncontiguous part of the County which shares a common boundary with Canada and which is surrounded on three sides by water and the Executive Branch of Whatcom County Government.

7. (Goldsmith) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 1.51 Cooperation of Branches

Though powers are distributed to the respective branches, each branch shall strive to work ~~in partnership~~ with the other branch for a unified government ~~in order to advance public justice~~ for the people of Whatcom County, ~~which is the primary task of this government.~~

8. (Hansey) I move to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 2.20 Powers

The County Council shall exercise its legislative power by adoption and enactment of ordinances or resolutions. It shall have the power:

(a) To levy taxes, appropriate revenue and adopt budgets for the county.

(b) To establish the compensation to be paid to all county officers and employees and to provide for the reimbursement of expenses, except that no council member may receive a salary increase for the term of office during which the ordinance is adopted, nor shall any council member receive a salary in excess of fifteen (15) percent of that of the County Executive.

(c) Except as otherwise provided for herein, to establish, abolish, combine and divide by ordinance, non-elective administrative offices and executive departments and to establish their powers and responsibilities.

(d) To ~~adopt~~ ~~create~~ by ordinance ~~an office within the legislative branch to assist the County Council in the development, and implementation by ordinance, of comprehensive plans, including improvement plans for the present and future development of the county, and to establish its powers and responsibilities.~~

The enumeration of particular legislative powers shall not be construed as limiting the legislative powers of the County Council.

**SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT FROM DON HANSEY
PROPOSED MOTION #8
MAY 10, 1995**

NEW ARTICLE 8 PLANNING AND ZONING

Section 8.10 Purpose

The County Council shall, by ordinance, create and maintain a system of establishing comprehensive plans, zoning regulations, and other land use regulations including capital improvement and economic development plans, for the present and future development of the County.

Section 8.20 Planning Department

The County Council shall, by ordinance, create an office within the legislative branch to assist the County Council in carrying out the purposes set forth in Section 8.10. The implementation of those plans and regulations shall be administered by the Executive branch.

Section 8.30 Planning Commission

The County Council shall, by ordinance, create a Planning Commission to advise the Planning Department and the County Council in carrying out the purposes set forth in Section 8.10. Appointment of the Planning Commission shall be made by the County Council.

Section 3.22 (e) is hereby repealed.

{Note: The current Article 8 will become Article 9; other sections will be renumbered appropriately.}