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3 **WHATCOM COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION**

4 Record of Proceedings
5 Special Meeting of May 18, 2015
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10 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

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12 Commissioner Ben Elenbaas called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at The Firs
13 Conference Center, 4605 Cable Street, Bellingham, Washington.
14

15
16 **2. ROLL CALL**

17
18 Present: Ken Bell, Todd Donovan, Chet Dow, Ben Elenbaas, Joe Elenbaas, Yvonne
19 Goldsmith, Wes Kentch, Cliff Langley, Eli Mackiewicz, Richard May, Barbara Ryan, Eileen
20 Sobjack, Thomas Stuen, Alie Walker
21

22 Absent: Jon Mutchler
23
24

25 **3. FLAG SALUTE**

26
27
28 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

29 The following people spoke:
30

31
32 Satpal Sidhu spoke about the duty of the Commission, requiring a 2/3 vote of the
33 Commission to put an amendment on the ballot, and proposed amendment three.
34

35 Bob Burr spoke about proposed amendment one, district-only voting.
36

37 Ellen Baker spoke about proposed amendment one, district-only voting.
38

39 Michelle Luke spoke about proposed amendment one, district-only voting.
40

41 Ronald Colson spoke about proposed amendment one, district-only voting.
42

43 Greg Brown spoke about proposed amendments 15, 16, and 17.
44

45 Karl Uppiano spoke about County Code permitting issues and the concept of freedom
46 by default.
47

48 David Kershner spoke about proposed amendment one, district-only voting.
49

50 Brooks Anderson spoke about proposed amendments one, three, and ten.
51

52 Mike Cohen spoke about proposed amendment 16.
53

54 Patrick Alesse spoke about proposed amendment one, district-only voting.
55

1 Edward Yuri spoke about proposed amendments one and nine.

2
3 Ann Mulvey spoke about proposed amendment 13, compliance with the Open Public
4 Meetings Act, and Commission information on the website.

5
6 Debbie Adelstein, County Auditor, spoke about proposed amendment 15, the County
7 Auditor's duties and responsibilities.

8
9 John Kirk spoke about proposed amendment 16 regarding contracting with nonprofit
10 non-governmental organizations.

11
12 *(The Commission took a break from 7:43 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.)*

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15 **5. OLD BUSINESS**

16
17 Proposed Amendment 15 from Jon Mutchler: County Auditor duties and responsibilities

18
19 Motion to approve the proposed amendment failed with debate, 0-13-1, with May
20 abstaining.

21
22 Proposed Amendment 16 from Wes Kentch: Shall the Charter be amended to increase
23 transparency in funding between Whatcom County and nonprofit non-government
24 organizations (NGOs)?

25
26 Motion to approve the proposed amendment failed with debate, 0-13-1, with Kentch
27 abstaining.

28
29 Proposed Amendment 17 from Richard May: Shall the Charter be amended to include a
30 section on districting restrictions?

31
32 After debate, the motion was made and seconded to close debate and call the
33 question. The motion carried 10-4 with Ben Elenbaas, Joe Elenbaas, Cliff Langley, and Eli
34 Mackiewicz opposed.

35
36 Motion to approve the proposed amendment failed with debate, 6-8, with Donovan,
37 Joe Elenbaas, Mackiewicz, May, Stuen, and Walker in favor.

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40 **7. OLD BUSINESS: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS FOR VOTERS AT THE NEXT**
41 **GENERAL ELECTION**

42
43 Proposed Amendment 1 from Joe Elenbaas: Shall the Charter be amended to provide for
44 election of councilmembers within the council district from which the candidate was
45 nominated?

46
47 The Commission discussed reconsidering proposed amendment one.

48
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50 **8. NEW BUSINESS**

51
52 Stuen moved to cancel the June 8, 2015 Charter Review Commission meeting, since
53 there are no pending amendments to consider.

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55 The motion failed with debate, 2-12, with Stuen and Ryan in favor.
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9. ADJOURN

The motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by general consent.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

The Commission approved these minutes on June 8, 2015



Jill Nixon, Recording Secretary



Chet Dow, Commission Secretary



Ben Elenbaas, Commission Chair