

**Whatcom County
Charter Review Commission
Meeting Minutes**

May 31, 1995

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 p.m. at the Courthouse Council Chambers, 311 Grand Avenue, Bellingham, by Chairperson Kathy Sutter.

II. Roll Call

Present:

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

Absent, but excused:

(None)

III. Approval of the Agenda

Smith moved to approve the agenda.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from the May 24, 1995 Meeting

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

Smith moved to approve the minutes.

Beech seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

V. Open Session - Public Comments

The Chair opened the floor for open session.

Speakers:

Glen Hallman, 1510 40th St., Bellingham

Paul Holtzheimer, P.O. Box 366, Custer

Roy Giles, 5385 Shields Rd., Bellingham

{Clerk's note: Gardner and Unger arrived during the first speaker of open session.}

The Chair closed open session.

VI. Discussion of Proposed Motions

Stender moved to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 3.21 Election, Term of Office and Compensation.

~~The County Executive shall be appointed by the County Council, 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. The County Executive shall receive compensation as determined by the County Council. (amended by Referendum 1986)~~

Smith seconded the motion.

The Chair called for an indication from the Commission determining whether it is appropriate for the Commission to consider this motion. The Commission determined that it is appropriate, 10 - 5, with Elenbaas, Gardner, McLeod, Polinder, and Unger opposed.

Motion carried, 9 - 6, with Elenbaas, Gardner, McLeod, Polinder, Scrimsher, and Unger opposed.

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

After the break, the Commission discussed additional implementation language needed with this motion.

Stender moved that we table this discussion to next week.

Beech seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Hansey served notice that he will move to reconsider Stender's motion, in case it becomes too impractical to implement.

Beech moved to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 9.20 Purchasing, Contracts, Claims, and Bonds.

The County Council shall by ordinance establish procedures for purchasing supplies, services, materials and equipment, the awarding of contracts, the processing of claims, and the sale or refunding of bonds. The ordinance shall provide when bids shall be required and how invitations for bids shall be advertised.

The ordinance shall provide, for purposes of bid preparation, that all county departments will submit bids in the competitive bidding process and employ full accrual and cost accounting principles.

Smith seconded the motion.

Beech made a substitute motion to amend the Charter as follows:

Section 9.20 Purchasing, Contracts, Claims, and Bonds.

The County Council shall by ordinance establish procedures for purchasing supplies, services, materials and equipment, the awarding of contracts, the processing of claims, and the sale or refunding of bonds. The ordinance shall provide when bids shall be required and how invitations for bids shall be advertised. This procedure shall be reviewed annually.

The County shall make every effort to contract out as many projects and services as possible in order to:

1. Reduce the size and cost of government;
2. Provide the highest tax base in the community by providing work for our local businesses and their employees;
3. Provide for competition, which assures that the County is getting the maximum value for its dollar.

All purchases, contracts and bonds subject to bid procedures shall be advertised and, unless all bids are rejected, shall be awarded on the basis of sealed bidding to the lowest responsible bidder.

Smith moved to amend the motion by taking the sentence "This procedure shall be reviewed annually." and leave in the second paragraph from the week before.

Goldsmith seconded the motion.

Motion to amend failed unanimously.

By consent, the Commission amended the motion to read:

Section 9.20 Purchasing, Contracts, Claims, and Bonds.

The County Council shall by ordinance establish procedures for purchasing supplies, services, materials and equipment, the awarding of contracts, the processing of claims, and the sale or refunding of bonds. The ordinance shall provide when bids shall be required and how invitations for bids shall be advertised. ~~This procedure shall be reviewed annually.~~

Main motion, as amended, carried 8 - 7, with Ahrens, Gardner, McLeod, Polinder, Scrimsher, Stender, and Unger opposed.

Stender withdrew the third motion on the agenda, because it was in violation of State Law.

VII. Break

The Chair called for a break at 8:10 p.m.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

VIII. Other Business

Frederick requested a budget update from Budget and Program Analyst Bob Woods.

The Chair passed out four motions for next week's agenda and inquired if anyone had additional motions.

Stender inquired about scheduling the final session to look at all motions to change the Charter.

The Commission discussed scheduling difficulties. McLeod suggested that the Commission look at their calendars in order to schedule more time. The Chair agreed to bring a scheduling proposal next week.

Stender noted that next week will be Intern Martin Otterson's last day.

Secretary Kerstin M. Bailey noted that next week's meeting will again be in the Council Chambers.

IX. Discussion of Next Agenda

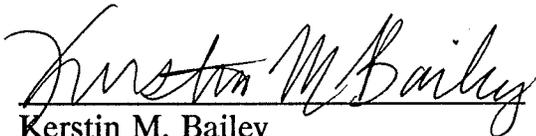
Items to be included on the next agenda: call to order, roll call, approval of agenda, approval of minutes, open session, discussion of proposed motions, other business, discussion of next agenda, adjourn.

Gardner requested that the Commission have additional time to bring forth motions that result from the action taken tonight with regard to appointing the Executive. The Chair requested that this item be the last of the motions.

X. Adjourn

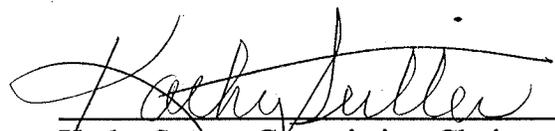
The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kerstin M. Bailey
Recording Secretary

WHATCOM-COUNTY CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION


Yvonne Goldsmith, Secretary


Kathy Sutter, Commission Chair