

**MINUTES
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
April 27, 2016**

Pierce County Annex
2401 S. 35th Street
Tacoma, Washington 98409

(Note: These minutes are not verbatim. Audio recordings are available upon request.)

1. Convene

The Charter Review Commission meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Chair Hanek.

2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The pledge was led by Sanders.

3. Roll Call

Commission Members Present: Don Anderson, Katie Baird, Janis Clark, Amy Cruver, Linda Farmer, Sharon Hanek, John Ladenburg, Martha Lantz, Carolyn Merrival, David Olson, Cathy Pearsall-Stipek, Grant Pelesky, David Perry, April Sanders, Jan Shabro, Richard Thurston and Paul Wagemann.

Commission Members Excused: Carolyn Edmonds, Timothy Farrell, Greg Hartman and Joshua Penner. Commissioners Ladenburg and Thurston arrived after roll call.

Staff Present: Andrea Innes, Meeting Clerk; Mari Kruger Leavitt, Acting Director of Community Connections; Linda Medley, Meeting Clerk; and Ian Northrip, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

Also Present: Dr. Anthony Chen, Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

There were 6 visitors present.

4. Approval of the Agenda

Sanders moved approval of the agenda as presented; motion seconded and passed on a voice vote.

5. Approval of Minutes – April 20, 2016

Sanders moved approval of the minutes for April 20, 2016, as presented; motion seconded and passed on a voice vote.

6. Public Comment (three-minute time limit per speaker):

- Robert Hill testified on his proposed Amendment P-24 recommending an enlarged citizens districting commission in place of the current districting committee.

- Jerry Gibbs thanked commissioners for their work and due diligence on his proposed Amendment P-1, and expressed support of discussions still underway on judicial review during the referendum process. He responded to questions and comments from Pelesky and Ladenburg about timelines and attorneys' fees.
- John Berry expressed thanks for Ladenburg effort to resolve referendum judicial review issues, and to commissioners for considering lowering signature thresholds.
- Ken Paulson testified that every elected official should keep a copy of the Charter on his or her desk and respect what it stands for. His proposed Amendment P-16 calls for penalties for Charter violations; he believes existence of "contempt" penalties will keep officials from violating it.

7. Presentations from Elected Officials

There were no presentations.

8. Presentations from County Department Heads/Employees

Dr. Anthony Chen, Director of Health, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department was present to respond to questions from Commissioners during discussion of proposed Amendment C-9, if it occurred.

9. Discussion of Proposed Amendments

Chair Hanek reviewed Commission housekeeping matters and proposed a timeline to aid in meeting deadlines. She proposed that by May 4 all "P" submissions move forward or be dropped, and by May 11 and 13 all "C" and "O" submissions pass the four-vote threshold. The Commission would then know the universe of amendments to consider. She suggested public meetings on June 8 and 11 (a Saturday) for public input; a date of June 22 for up and down votes on what will go to the ballot; and June 29 for clean-up and determination of "for" and "against" committees.

Discussion ensued on the timeline and process. Commissioners agreed consideration needed to be accelerated. If there is no interest, a proposed amendment does not need to be discussed. Vice Chair Lantz suggested debate be left for agenda discussions rather than at every stage of the process.

Chair Hanek requested that an amendment unsuccessfully submitted by Robert Hill (due to computer error) prior to the April 15 deadline be included among the proposed amendments. Merrival so moved. Seconded and agree to by voice vote. It is numbered P-28.

Chair Hanek called on Ian Northrip to report on the following items referred for legal review. He also responded to extensive commissioner questions on several proposed amendments.

- C-25; C-26; C-27; C-28; C-29; C-30; C-31; P-15 (substitute) and P-17 (substitute).

The Charter Review Commission recessed at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

Vice Chair Lantz discussed the possibility that after second readings of the "O" series amendments dealing primarily with technical changes, perhaps a committee could be convened to combine these into one amendment to get to a final product.

Lantz moved to advance O-9 to first reading, to keep pace with the other Auditor-proposed amendments that have already moved to second reading or final consideration. Seconded by Merrival; approved by voice vote to first reading immediately.

Point of order by Ladenburg: Questioned whether these Auditor-proposed amendments should be combined for consideration because they are substantive, not technical. He asked legal if this is correct, concerned they might be thrown out by courts if combined.

Chair Hanek said options would be explored for final consideration of the technical corrections.

Olson seconded the Lantz motion to move O-9 to immediate reading. Approved on voice vote.

Anderson moved to advance P-21 and P-22 dealing with districting for legal review. By a show of hands, 11 voted yes to move the two proposed amendments to legal.

Vice Chair Lantz moved to place P-16 on the agenda. Seconded. Similar to another amendment dealing with Charter violations, but a different approach. By a show of hands, there were seven votes to move forward.

Lantz then moved to advance C-29 to the agenda. Seconded. Also addresses Charter violations. Show of hands, 11 votes to move forward.

Clark moved to advance C-25 and C-26. Seconded. By a show of hands, seven voted in favor.

Merrival moved to advance C-30. Lantz proposed as alternative to another Merrival amendment. Seconded. Show of hands, nine votes in favor.

Cruver moved that C-27 be moved forward. C-27 not advanced due to lack of a second.

Cruver moved to advance C-28. Seconded by Thurston. Moves forward with five votes, on a show of hands.

Baird moves to advance C-31. Seconded. By a show of hands, there are nine votes to move forward.

Vice Chair Lantz moves to advance the P-17 substitute proposed amendment. She indicated the substitute version is not the same but is similar to C-10, dealing with changes to referendum process. Pelesky seconded. Seven commissioners vote to move forward.

Cruver moves to send P-23 to legal. Ladenburg has serious concerns. By show of hands, five commissioners vote to send for legal review.

Rick Sorrels, author of proposed amendment P-19, was asked to comment on his amendment. Thurston said nothing needs to be fixed and he will not support. Ladenburg agrees. There is no motion on table.

Merrival moves to advance C-23 forward. Seconded by Pelesky. Three votes to move forward, does not advance.

Ladenburg moves that anything not on table at this meeting, that hasn't been considered yet, is dead. Chair Hanek calls for discussion. Cruver amends the date to next Wednesday, citing the need for public notice. Lantz seconds Cruver amendment. Olson opposes Cruver. Pelesky

favors one more week. Chair Hanek and Vice Chair Lantz say sponsors and public need more time for fair hearing, supported by Wagemann, Perry, Merrival. Clark supports original Ladenburg motion. By a show of hands, nine commissioners support Cruver amendment to move the four-vote threshold deadline to next week. Six nays. Ladenburg withdraws his motion. Next week is deadline.

Baird moves to begin discussion on C-9 because of the presence of Dr. Anthony Chen from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. Anderson reviewed the intent of his proposal. Discussion ensued. Pelesky questioned what is broken, and would voters understand, cautioning commissioners to be judicious about what is put on ballot. Lantz moves for second reading at next meeting. Ladenburg opposes moving forward. Pearsall-Stipek calls for the question. Seconded. Unanimous to end debate. Motion to send to next meeting fails on tie vote. But second reading is required, so a vote to kill will occur at the next meeting. Perry moves to end discussion tonight. Seconded. Passed on voice vote.

Perry comments on O-8. Notes it gives county more flexibility in bidding. Reports he prefers not to move to second reading until better language is developed. He is working with others including legal staff. Thurston asks if it can be moved to final consideration, if the commissioners generally agree with language. Discussion continues on dollar amount, Council discretion to act, moving it forward but tweaking later and other options. Ladenburg suggests new language to staff. Motion by Thurston to move O-8 to final consideration. Merrival calls the question. Unanimous voice vote to send to final consideration.

Vice Chair Lantz calls for second reading on Auditor's proposals. Olson moves to advance O-2, O-3, O-4 and O-7 together for final consideration. Seconded. Carries by voice vote.

Ladenburg announces he will move to recommend to the County Council that these "O" proposals be technical amendments and they go on the ballot next year.

Thurston moves that O-10 go to next stage. Discussion ensues re non-partisan prosecutor. Chair Hanek indicates this has been first reading, and no motion is needed to move it to second reading.

10. Good of the Order

Chair Hanek reminded Commissioners to save full amendment packets for next meeting.

11. Adjournment

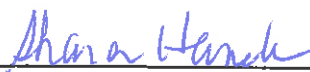
The Charter Review Commission adjourned at 10:15 p.m. Motion by Pelesky.

Attest:



Andrea Innes, Meeting Clerk

Approved:



Sharon Hanek, Chair



Date Approved