

**MINUTES  
CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION  
May 4, 2016**

Pierce County Annex  
2401 S. 35<sup>th</sup> 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 7:05 p.m. by Chair Hanek.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

The pledge was led by Olson.

**3. Roll Call**

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

Commission Members Excused: Greg Hartman, Grant Pelesky and April Sanders.  
Commissioners Edmonds, Farrell, Ladenburg, Merrival and Pearsall-Stipek arrived after roll call.

Staff Present: Andrea Innes, Meeting Clerk; Linda Medley, Meeting Clerk; and Ian Northrip, Civil Deputy Prosecuting Attorney.

There were 6 visitors present.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

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

**5. Approval of Minutes – April 27, 2016**

Anderson moved approval of the minutes for April 27, 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 Amendments P-25 and P-26 to make changes in the structure, membership and partisan composition of the County Council; and his proposed Amendments P-27 and P-28 requiring the Sheriff to allow changes in bail payment options and to obtain five percent of the county jail's annual food budget from local Pierce County farmers. He responded to questions from Perry and Thurston.

- John Berry discussed drainage issues in the Puyallup Valley and referenced writings of noted East Pierce County journalist Robert Montgomery from more than a century ago.
- Rick Sorrels asked commissioners to place high priority on issues of urgent concern and limit the number of items they put on ballot. He expressed his belief there are things in the Charter that are micromanaging and suggested some changes can be done by the County Council.
- Ken Paulson suggested that elected officials won't violate the Charter again if there are penalties as proposed in his Amendment P-16. Merrival asked if he could state examples of times officials had violated the Charter. He cited two years when the Council did not meet 50 times as required.

**7. Presentations from Elected Officials**

There were no presentations.

**8. Presentations from County Department Heads/Employees**

There were no presentations.

**9. Discussion of Proposed Amendments**

Chair Hanek called on Ian Northrip to provide legal review on several items, the final requests made the previous week. Northrip also responded to commissioner questions.

P-21 and P-22, dealing with districting.

P-23, dealing with property rights. Northrip and several commissioners suggested the complexity of P-23 would require significant additional legal review if the proposal moves forward for consideration.

O-10 making county prosecutor non-partisan. Northrip said a previous report had been presented on this proposal when it was introduced as C-2.

Chair Hanek opened discussion of amendments. She reminded commissioners that to be forwarded for consideration beyond May 4, a "P" amendment needs to complete one extra step of approval. Many still needed sponsorship, legal review and to meet the four-vote threshold.

Farrell moved to advance C-15, providing notice of amendments to proposed ordinances. Seconded. Debate ensued. Ladenburg, Thurston, Olson suggested the Commission make recommendations of housekeeping-type proposals to the Council instead of cluttering up the ballot.

Wagemann suggested the concept of this type of proposal dies if the Commission does not move the amendment to the next stage. Chair Hanek said the concept dies if not advanced.

Penner said this is about the process of the Charter and is not outside the boundaries of the Commission's work.

Merrival called the question. Seconded. Voice vote yes. Chair Hanek called for show of hands. Eight votes to move C-15 forward.

Anderson moved to advance P-21 and P-22, dealing with districting, as a pair. Seconded by Shabro. Debate ensued. Clark moved to call the question. Yes vote. Chair Hanek asked for a show of hands to move the two proposed amendments forward. Four votes in favor, the amendments advance.

Cruver moved to advance P-23 (property rights) forward to discussion stage. Clark seconded. All but one in favor of closing debate. Chair Hanek asks for show of hands. No votes to move P-23 forward.

Cruver moves to suspend rules and advance substitute for P-23. Debate ensues about process, deadlines, effect of rules suspension. Chair Hanek calls for voice vote on suspending rules. One vote in favor.

The Charter Review Commission recessed at 8:20 p.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

Vice Chair Lantz moves to advance P-15. Second by Clark. Debate proceeds about public access to County code, cost, whether to present to Council in place of adding to ballot. Chair Hanek calls for show of hands. Six votes to move forward.

Wagemann moves to send P-18 (ombudsperson) to legal review. Seconded. Many observations shared. Farrell calls the question, all agree to end discussion. Hanek asks for show of hands to send to legal. Seeing none, the proposal dies.

Wagemann moves that P-19 (executive sessions) be advanced to legal review. Seconded. Ladenburg indicates executive sessions already exist in state law. Hanek calls for show of hands to move P-19 forward. No votes to advance.

Chair Hanek reviewed proposals that are headed for the amendment graveyard according to the Commission's process, not having advanced to "live" status. Those are P-5, P-6, P-7, P-8, P-9, P-10, P-11, P-12, P-13, P-14, P-18, P-19, P-20, P-24, P-25, P-26, P-27, P-28. She said the same is true for O-10, C-16, C-17, C-18, C-19, C-20, C-21 and C-22 unless they are moved forward tonight.

Farrell announces he will not move to advance his remaining proposed amendments forward.

Baird moves that Farrell's C-21 dealing with charter review candidate requirements be advanced. Seconded. Discussion ensues. Hanek suggests moving forward because issues are similar to C-31, already advanced. Lantz calls the question; yes vote. By a show of hands, C-21 moves forward with four votes.

Anderson moves that discussion be closed on all items not already advanced. Those remaining define universe. Dead items cannot be resurrected. Seconded. Unanimous voice vote on motion.

Vice Chair Lantz moves to close discussion on C-9 (Councilmember Service on Board of Health) at second reading. Motion seconded. Anderson still supports but recognizes a lack of Commission sentiment for it. Voice vote to close discussion.

Vice Chair Lantz moved to approve O-9 for final consideration, noting all other auditor-recommended amendments had advanced but O-9 had lagged behind. Seconded. By voice vote, the motion carried.

Perry said a revised version of C-10 will be presented at next week's CRC meeting. This deals with Superior Court review of submitted referenda.

Thurston moved for advancement of O-10, making county prosecutor non-partisan. Seconded. Discussion ensued similar to previous meetings. Edmonds called for the question; yes vote. Motion is to move O-10 to final consideration. Nine votes needed according to Commission rules. Result: three votes to move forward; 14 votes not to move forward. Amendment O-10 dies.

Vice Chair Lantz moves to proceed to "good of the order" and cease discussion of amendments on the agenda. Approved by voice vote.

**10. Good of the Order**

- Chair Hanek discussed upcoming deadlines and Commission schedule.
- Clark requested discussion of media proposal on next agenda.

**11. Adjournment**

The Charter Review Commission adjourned at 9:55 p.m. Motion by Farrell.

Attest:



Andrea Innes, Meeting Clerk

Approved:



Sharon Hanek, Chair



Date Approved