

**CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS  
MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2014**

The Board of Freeholders convened in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, 6th Floor, Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington.

**Call to Order**

Nan Henriksen, Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**

1. Tad Winiecki
2. Betty Sue Morris
3. Steve Foster
4. Lloyd Halverson
5. Kelly Parker
6. Debbie Nelson
7. Greg Kimsey

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Jim Moeller, seconded by Temple Lentz to approve minutes from April 8, 2014. **Motion Passed**

**Overview of entire draft charter**

**Changes reflecting last meeting's decisions**

Chair Henriksen stated in Section 5 "Powers of the County" a paragraph was inadvertently removed under "Separation of Powers and Cooperation of Branches" the paragraph will be put back in and will read as follows:

"On January 1, 2015 the effective date of this Charter. The legislative and executive powers shall be separated into two branches of government. Each branch is to dutifully fulfill its responsibilities and shall not extend its authority into the other branch as defined in this Charter".

Chair Henriksen stated on page 3 "Legislative Branch" all of the highlighted changes reflect the decision to select option 4 when electing the county council.

Chair Henriksen stated after much feedback it was decided to remove the sentence that says: "Council members shall serve as citizen legislators in a part time capacity". Chair Henriksen asked the board if there are any objections to removing the sentence. There were no objections from the Board.

Chair Henriksen stated that the language regarding collective bargaining was changed back to reflect current practice.

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Chair Henriksen asked the board if they had any objection to removing the sentence regarding term limits on boards and commissions. The board had no objections.

Chair Henriksen stated after several public comments regarding the sentence of malfeasance. She suggested that the board discuss whether to, keeping the language, clarify the language, or take the language out of the charter completely. After board discussion it was moved by Tracy Wilson, seconded By Paul Dennis to adopt the following revised language: **Motion passed**

“Council members shall not interfere in the administration of the executive branch. They shall not issue orders to or direct either publically or privately any officer, agent, employee, contractor, or vendor subject to the direction and supervision of the county manager or other elected official. Nothing contained here shall prohibit a council member from referring a citizen complaint or submitting a request for information to the county manager or another elected official. Nothing contained here shall prohibit a council member from requesting information form or advise pertinent to legislative deliberations and actions of the council from any officer, agent, employee, contractor, or vendor subject to the direction and supervision of the county manager or other elected official”.

Within the paragraph above the following language will be inserted. “Nor prohibit a request to the county manager to work with executive staff to investigate a constituent issue”.

The Board discussed having a super majority or a simple majority for hiring and firing a county manager. After discussion a straw vote was taken and the majority of the board members voted to keep it language the same, which is a super majority. The Board continued discussion taking into account that the county manager is an at-will position. Another straw vote was taken and the majority of the board voted to change the language to “simple majority”.

The Board discussed defining the roles of the Treasurer, Auditor, and County Manager regarding finance and keeping the clarification language (which is state law) in the charter or simply stating that these roles are defined in state law. The board took a straw vote and voted unanimously to state that the roles are defined in state law.

The Board discussed the difference in pay for the council chair as opposed to the council members. After board discussion a straw vote was taken it was agreed upon an additional 20% for the chair position.

The Board discussed Article 5 Section 6 regarding a county employee holding outside employment. It was moved by Garry Lucas and seconded by Pat Jallota to accept Greg Kimsey’s language. The board opened the issue up for discussion. After discussion Joe Zarelli moved to strike the motion on the table and amend the motion as follows: “No county elected official shall hold any other office or employment within county government during a term of office”. Motion was seconded by Peter Silliman. **Motion passed.**

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The board discussed whether a person must be 18 or 21 years of age to run for county office. Pat Jollata moved to change the age to 18, seconded by Jim Mains. **Motion passed.**

Chair Henriksen stated that the elections office has requested to insert the following language in section 9.1A “the council shall cause an election of a charter review commission. The commission shall consist of 11 persons elected on a non-partisan basis, two from each council district, and three countywide. These candidates shall file during the regular candidate filing period. These candidates shall pay a filing fee of ? The board opened the issue up for discussion. Moved by Garry Lucas and seconded by Liz Pike to require a \$25 filing fee for candidates seeking positions on the charter review commission. **Motion passed.**

**Elements with outstanding discussion items**

The board began discussion on the transition from one form of government to another. Chair Henriksen stated that the discussion on this topic will continue at the next board meeting

**Board vacancy and secretary position**

Chair Henriksen read a letter that she sent to fellow freeholders regarding Val Ogden. Moved by Jim Mains to nominate Dan Ogden to the vacant freeholder seat. Pat Jollota seconded, Joe Zarelli moved that nominations be closed, seconded by Garry Lucas. **Motion passed.**

Chair Henriksen appoint Temple Lentz to serve as secretary. Moved by Garry Lucas, seconded by Ann Rivers. **Motion passed.**

**Close of Business**

**Good of the Order**

Jim Mains stated that he will be presenting at charter process update at the Ridgefield Junction Neighborhood Association meeting on, Monday May 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

**Next Meeting Date/Location**

May 13, 2014, 6:00 p.m., Public Service Center, Hearing Room, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, Washington.