



A Charter Review Committee Meeting of the City of Everett was held on May 12, 2016 in the 5<sup>th</sup> floor Human Resources Training room of the Wall Street Building located at 2930 Wetmore Ave. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. and was presided over by Committee Chair Reid Shockey.

**Attendees:**

<b>Committee Members</b>	Christopher Adams	Clair Olivers
	Terrie Battuello	Reid Shockey
	Megan Dunn	Angie Sievers
	Dave Koenig	Michael Swanson
	Jim Langus	Erica Temple
	Jo Metzger-Levin	Michael Trujillo
	Tom Norcott	Walter White
 <b>Excused Members</b>	 Mark Nesse	
 <b>Guests</b>	 Thom Graafstra, Attorney	
<b>City Staff</b>	Liaison : Bob Bolerjack	Admin: Lisa Harrison
	City Attorney: Jim Iles	

**1. Call to order**

Committee Chair Reid Shockey welcomed public hearing attendees, introduced himself and asked the committee members to introduce themselves to the audience.

Shockey recognized Chris Adams for his recent award as the 2016 recipient of the Emerging Leaders Award for Snohomish County.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

The April 21st meeting minutes were approved by majority. Vote: 14 yes, 1 abstain.

**3. Public hearing**

Shockey explained the agenda for the audience. He mentioned that the Charter Review Committee has been meeting since February to make recommendations to the City Council, which will decide the items that will move forward to the November general-election ballot.

- Shockey stated that tonight is the night for the Committee’s second required public hearing before making final recommendations to the Council. Citizens were asked to keep their comments to 3-5 minutes each.



- This hearing will run at least until 6:00, then the hearing will be concluded and the committee will have discussion after that. (Shockey has to leave at 6:00 pm.)
  - There will be no votes taken by the Committee tonight, but that will take place in the next two weeks. Any member can bring up new items for the Committee to consider.
    - They can also revisit issues already voted on if a Committee member who voted on the prevailing side of an issue makes a motion and it is seconded.
  - Those interested in speaking were asked to fill out a speaker sheet and give their testimony at the podium.
- 1) M.J. Donovan-Creamer spoke in reference to Claire Olivers’ recommendation to put a cap on “payment in lieu of tax” rates for city-owned utilities. She said she concurs with Olivers on this issue and asked that the Committee consider it.
  - 2) Carol Jensen, 2522 Rucker Avenue: Here supporting a mixture of at-large and districted council members. She read the minutes and did not feel that the Committee gave this issue the serious attention that it deserves. She said she believes districting would ensure a diversity of voices at the table. Our city will be stronger when more people have a stake. It would send a message that all voices are wanted and needed in our political system.
  - 3) Ron Young, 2522 Rucker Avenue: He said he thinks our country today has a big challenge to find more diversity in inclusion of others. The problem has been exacerbated by efforts to limit ability for low-income and ethnic populations to vote. He said he thinks that having a district system along with at-large positions makes it more likely that people will feel included without people focusing on just their district. He noted that one County Council member and three state legislators have expressed the desire for districting and feel like those opinions should be made public. He said he hopes this Committee will take this issue to the City Council and to the voters so that there can be more discussion with the public.
  - 4) Shelley Weyer, 1501 Rucker Avenue: Her comments concerning the districting issue as well. As she wrote to the Committee earlier this year, she said she believes it is time for districting to be used in Everett. More individuals would have a better opportunity and would choose to run for City Council with districts. It would provide a representative for each of the five areas (in a five-district, two at-large format). Three of the current Council members are in her neighborhood. We should have a council that represents all corners of the city.



- 5) Tina Hokanson, 325 South Cabot Road: She said she supports the idea of council districts. Everett is one of the largest cities in the county and we have an expanding population and increased diversity. Although she appreciates the representation that we have had, she said she thinks the idea of running for office if you are in South Everett is kind of overwhelming because you have to have a large network that includes political and financial support that you might not have. If we have smaller districts candidates could get support from their neighbors and have a better support system. All of the areas have different issues that they are dealing with every day.
- 6) Jackie Minchew, 5607 South 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue: He commended Committee members on the work they have done so far. He said he doesn't believe in the north and south borders – that Everett should be thought of as having North, Central and South sections. He said he ran for City Council five times and learned it takes being part of a personal and professional network, which he said he hasn't been able to crack. He said he favors Council districts. If you want representation for those who are not currently represented, you've got to get them involved.
- 7) Mary Rollins, 1626 46<sup>th</sup> Street SE: She said she appreciates the Committee's hard work. As a new resident (four years), she said she sees a disparity between people in government and those they represent. It's one city, but it's not. She said she agrees with Jackie Minchew regarding there being a central district. People in some neighborhoods are embarrassed to see where they are from when they should have pride instilled in where they live.
- 8) Sal Casturita: 3905 Grand Avenue: He said he comes to the Committee as a concerned citizen about districting, and asked that the Committee reconsider the districting issue. He said he has been in this town most of his life and has seen it change over this time, but only in certain spots. We need to engage all of the people—teachers, Boeing employees, younger people, etc. He said he hopes that a little civic involvement will help us take our place and be proud of the city.
- 9) Brenda Bolanos-Ivory: 2129 Rucker Avenue: She said she's a new resident, having moved from California last month. She joined the local League of Women Voters. The League does not take a position on districting because they need months to investigate. She said she thinks that we need to allow all to have a voice and be represented and there is considerable interest by the League of Women Voters to do more research to see if districting is a solution. She asked the Committee to leave this issue open.



- 10) Dave Ramstad: 1301 Pinkerton Avenue: He said he supports districting as the most logical and reasonable thing to do so that every voice is heard and they aren't right now. He has lived in Everett from the Snohomish River mouth to Silver Lake and it's the most beautiful area of the world. He said he thinks all of those areas need to have a voice in our City's leadership.
- 11) J.T. Dray, 902 Wetmore Avenue: He said he was at the Committee's first meeting and had a proposal to add an Everett Transit advisory committee to the Charter, but it didn't meet legal requirements since it was in conflict with state law. He wrote a new proposal and requested that the Committee consider the possibility of recommending the creation of a committee on Transit. Right now only 15 minutes of the ongoing Transportation Advisory Committee meetings are devoted to Transit. Everett Transit seems to be purposely opaque. There are metro area developments underway right now and there are more and more apartment tenants who do not own nor want to own cars and will be more dependent on public transportation. He proposed adding in Section 5 an advisory committee to advise the mayor and council on issues related to Everett Transit.
- 12) Charlene Rawson: 3011 Nassau Street: She commented on the districting issue. She said she wanted to point out how many North Everett residents are here in support of districting even though they are the most represented. Voter apathy is appalling in the south. None of the current Council members have been door-belling these areas to help them feel involved. The passion for this is huge and we have hundreds of citizens volunteering to help make this happen. You have to actually live in the middle of what these people are going through every day to really be able to deal with these issues.

A break was taken after all public comments had been heard at approximately 5:15 p.m. The meeting was reconvened at 5:26.

Shockey asked for feedback from the Committee Members regarding the format of the report. He stated that all of the public comments that were given tonight will be summarized and included in the final report. One asked if this was duplicative given that it is covered in the minutes. Tonight's testimonies will be covered in the minutes. One commented that the meetings are also being video recorded and available for a long time after the committee has been dismissed.

- Recommendation was given to have a table of contents in the front for easier reference.



- Committee Member Swanson asked if it was allowed to have the ballot language in the report. It was clarified by attorney Thom Graafstra that this was OK as long as it is labeled as a Committee recommendation.
- Terri Battuello said she would be in favor to take out any language referring to the ballot. What the Committee is here to do is to evaluate the Charter, not give them the way to do it. Otherwise it's confusing as to what this Committee's job is.
- Tom Norcott said he thinks it makes it clearer to have proposed ballot language that summarizes the Committee's recommendations.
- Michael Trujillo said he thinks it's the Committee's job to recommend what members think the Council should take to the people for a vote.
- Shockey asked for a vote on whether to include the ballot-language section in the report. Will vote on the two alternatives next week: 1) eliminate the language about ballots or 2) keep it as is.
- Norcott thanked the citizens in the audience for attending and expressing their opinions. It shows how much they care about the city.
- Clair Olivers asked that documentation on the discussion of the "payment in lieu of taxes" changes recommended be added to the table in the report for documentation.
- Shockey asked members to provide provide comments for Part C if they wish and wanted to know if all of the comments should be grouped into one section.
- Vice Chair Dunn said she supports the opportunity to add a succinct comment with her opinion. It appears that there will be only three issues that will require this documentation.
- Committee members agreed that all comments should be sent to Bob Bolerjack by close of business the Monday after the final meeting. Shockey asked that they keep it short, and keep each section separate.

Regarding next week: Vice Chair Dunn asked that they be prepared to succinctly bring up anything they want to bring back up for discussion. Per attorney Graafstra: if there was no substantive vote and an issue was tabled, then anyone can move to bring it up. If reconsidering a vote, the motion has to be brought up by 1) someone on the prevailing side or 2) somebody



who was not present. This is based on Robert’s Rules of Order, which has not been officially adopted. There have to be 10 affirmative votes for an item to be passed.

Motion made and seconded to close the public meeting. Vote: 14-0.

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.**