

March 10, 2021 Charter Review Commission Regular Meeting

Call to Order: Chair Kevin Ranker called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

Roll Call: Sharon Abreu, David Anderson, Bill Appel, Janet Brownell, Kyle Davies, David Dehlendorf, Paul Dossett, Jane Fuller, Patty Garcia, Tony Ghazel, Richard Grout, Liz Lafferty, Kevin Ranker (Chair), Maureen See, Anne Marie Shanks, Tom Starr. Olivia Roseberry's absence was excused. Bob O'Connell arrived at 4:17pm.

Others Present: SJC Auditor Milene Henley, Minor Lile, Sheriff Ron Krebs, Treasurer Rhonda Pederson, Clerk Lisa Henderson, Kathryn Hansen (CRC Assistant), and one unidentified caller. County Manager Mike Thomas, Prosecutor Randy Gaylord and Leith Templin joined later.

Approval of March 3, 2021 meeting **minutes**.

MOVED by Anne Marie Shanks, **SECONDED** by Sharon Abreu, to approve the Minutes as presented. Discussion followed. 16 Ayes, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstained.
MOTION PASSED.

Chair Ranker stated that during Committee Reports, he is looking for highlights for upcoming Town Halls. He also commented that Prosecutor Gaylord has issued his first two legal opinions on questions asked by the CRC. Jane Fuller requested that identification of committee issues be agreed upon before submitting to Chair Ranker for the Town Halls.

County Sheriff, Ron Krebs. Kevin welcomed the Sheriff and thanked him for his service. He added that the Commission is looking at possible amendments to the current Charter and wants to learn about the Sheriff position and the department. Sheriff Krebs shared slides that illustrated an overview of the department. His 36 employees answered a total of 22,791 calls in 2020; 11,008 required a deputy response. Since his election in 2005, Sheriff Krebs has implemented several improvements in the department, including standards of conduct, mission statement, code of ethics, new employee evaluation process, Lexipol policy manual, increased training hours, updated dispatch and radio systems. Command staff attends FBI training which addresses ethics, integrity, and injustices. His department is seeking Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) accreditation which establishes national and state best practices. Sheriff Krebs noted that our geography necessarily dictates much of the way work needs to get done.

The Sheriff answered member questions about the type of calls received, relationship with the Council, oversight of the Sheriff's office, independent review of incidents, diversity in recruiting, implementation of the County's Safe and Inclusive Community Resolution, San Juan as a Sanctuary County, pro's and con's of an elected versus appointed Sheriff, and his thoughts on a citizens oversight or advisory committee over the law & justice system.

Kevin thanked Mr. Krebs and said members may have more questions; the Sheriff's door is always open.

County Manager position, Mike Thomas. Kevin thanked Mr. Thomas for his return appearance. His presentation described the relationships and duties the County Manager is responsible for. He is the primary conduit to the Council, as he endeavors to provide them information they need to do their work. The Charter and Resolution 10-2013 provide the authority and guidance for the position. He helps express Council initiatives, reorganize and improve service delivery, manage the appointed department heads, build relationships with

other agencies, execute agreements and signing authority, serve as Real Estate officer, is the litigation client for the County, and oversees boards and commissions. Mike also shared the budget strategy goals for 2020-21. The County Manager position description includes education, experience, and residency requirements.

Mr. Thomas responded to member questions about the civil service recruiting process for deputies, why the Agricultural Resources Committee is on his plate, Council's consent agenda, the Council's typical business, and implementing and enforcing initiatives with a shrinking workforce.

Kevin thanked Mike, who offered to return, if desired.

Committee Reports & hot topics. Kevin asked that reports be brief. In the future, he would like committee leads to send written report to the whole CRC prior to each regular Wednesday meeting. Verbal reports were offered by each committee. Members expressed the desire to write up rationales to defend positions taken on each issue to be brought forward.

Town Halls. Kevin announced meeting dates and times, noting that he hopes all members can attend. He asked that all steps be taken to ensure that lots of people attend. Bill Appel mentioned Conversation Cafes that address local and environmental topics. The next is scheduled March 11; Bill will announce the Town Halls at this meeting.

Open for Public Comment. Chair Ranker opened public comment. Leith Templin, Orcas Island, asked for the times and means of connecting to Town Halls. Information is on the CRC website.

Town Halls, continued. Liz Lafferty asked what happens to information gathered at the Town Halls. Kevin stated that people will be allowed to comment, without back and forth with the CRC, at least until all have been heard. We will keep a list of everything voiced by the public. All new ideas will go to committees or the body to be considered.

New Business. Kevin asked that members please e-mail their list of stakeholders they want to present at future meetings. Kyle Davies suggested that when crafting e-mails regarding committee business to put Committee name in the subject line for easier tracking.

Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

Kathryn Hansen
Recording Secretary

Minutes were approved by consensus at the March 17, 2021 Regular Meeting