

***AD-HOC Weld County Home Rule Charter  
Amendment Study Committee  
Meeting Minutes – May 9, 2018***

- I. CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL:** Jackie Johnson, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Windsor Town Hall. The following Home Rule Charter Committee (HRCC) members were present: Al Dominguez, Sam Gluck, Dave Kisker, Mark Lawley, Ray Patch, and Justus Pettit; Garrett Varra and James Welch were excused. Also present were Bruce Barker - County Attorney, Jennifer Finch - Public Information Officer (PIO), and Esther Gesick - Clerk to the Board.
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 2, 2018:** Al Dominguez moved to approve the Minutes of May 2, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mark Lawley, and it carried unanimously.
- III. INTRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION:**
- A. GUIDELINES AND SUMMARY INFORMATION: The following informational items were made available and reviewed by Mr. Barker: a two-page handout explaining the intent, protocol and expectations for the Home Rule Charter Study Committee (HRCC) meetings, the difference between Structural Home Rule government, versus Functional Municipal Home Rule government, and the difference between the County Charter, versus the Weld County Code.
- IV. PUBLIC INPUT:**
- A. Laura Doyle, County resident, referenced Section 3-8 and stated the Commissioners need to exercise the powers of the County but still “listen” to state laws and not try to overrule state statutes. She also cited Section 3-9 and expressed support for better transparency of compensation benefits, noting the information should be easier to locate. Ms. Doyle stated the current term limits for elected offices should be reduced to one-time, three-year terms. She also commented that planning projects should go through a vetting or scoring process to ensure they are complete and meet all the regulations before proceeding through the public hearing process, and the public should be afforded more time for review. Chair Johnson directed comments need to remain focused on the structure of the Charter, versus administrative matters addressed in the Weld County Code. Ms. Doyle referenced Section 4-3(A)(4) concerning the Board of Public Health and commented the minutes of their meetings should be easier to locate for public access. She commented the Planning Commission information is also difficult to locate, and the land use decisions should be made in greater detail with adequate findings. Chair Johnson noted the comments concerning the need to improved transparency and customer friendly information portals.
- B. Lynette Kilpatrick, LaSalle resident, stated her appreciation for the open dialogue format at the last meeting. She restated her support for two 4-year terms, with a clear restriction on total years of service and not jumping to other offices. She stated the appointed

positions of Coroner and Treasurer should be elected to avoid pressure from the County Commissioners. Further, she did not support making any of the existing elected offices appointed positions, and added the County Attorney should also be elected since he represents the County and its citizens. Mr. Barker clarified the Board of County Commissioners are his clients to represent and he is charged with explaining the law and can advise other offices and departments for the benefit of the County that the Commissioners represent. Mr. Kisker commented the conflict between representing the Commissioners and the County Council will need to be addressed. Mr. Barker explained the Board of Commissioners needs an attorney/client relationship and an elected Attorney wouldn't really represent anyone and there would be no confidentiality. Ms. Kilpatrick stated the County Council should have their own budget for an annual audit or separate legal counsel, if needed. She further stated the County Council should reinstate the practice of visiting the various departments to form relationships and a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities, which would make them more effective in the event of an audit issue. Concerning qualifications for elected officials, she suggested residency in their district for a minimum of one year prior to filing for candidacy should be required. She also commented that the Board of Commissioners should not be able to pull duties away from other elected officials. She also agreed with keeping government control at the local level concerning ethics violations. Mr. Barker confirmed there is a one-year wait time to reconsider something that failed during an election; however, the HRCC members may propose amendments/revisions. For example, Amendment 1B passed and could be further refined on the upcoming ballot.

- C. Karen Speed, Windsor resident, agreed with the prior comments and the need for improved ease to locate public information.
- D. Ms. Doyle returned and referenced Section 16-6, stating public notice should be increased to a minimum of 14 days with more visibility. She commented it was her understanding that the County Attorney's role was to protect the citizens. Chair Johnson explained the role of the County Attorney is to explain the laws and rules. Ms. Doyle commented his salary is paid by the taxpayers and the role should be responsive to the citizens and it should not be in fear of oversight by the Board of Commissioners.

**IV. HRCC DISCUSSION:** Chair Johnson stated she reviewed all the minutes and proposed revisions submitted to-date, and volunteered to compile a summary of the issues raised for review prior to the next general meeting. Mr. Kisker proposed splitting up the topics for discussion and creating an Agenda to inform the public in case they want to come and listen. Chair Johnson stated the HRCC members will also need to decide how they intend to format the decisions, whether by vote or consensus, to ensure a constructive outcome. Additionally, she stated if there is no consensus, then the HRCC members must determine an orderly process for clear communication and resolution to allow the discussion to move forward to other topics. Mr. Gluck commented that even if the HRCC members make a recommendation, it is still up to the Commissioners to decide whether it is presented as a ballot issue. Lastly, when asked if any other elected officers should be invited to attend, Chair Johnson indicated her last communication with County Council Chair, Gene Stille,

indicated they were satisfied with the information provided. She also questioned which Commissioner would represent the whole, since they are each individually elected officials. Mr. Barker suggested inviting Dr. Mark Wallace, Director of the Department of Public Health and Environment, as well as Esther Gesick, Clerk to the Board, to make brief presentations or answer questions, as the remaining positions which are specifically addressed in the Charter, and the HRCC members concurred.

- V. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chair Johnson stated the next meeting will be held on May 16th, at 6:30 p.m., in the Weld County Administration Building – Pawnee Conference Room, to begin forming a recommendation. There being no further discussion, Chair Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

\*Minutes submitted by Esther E. Gesick, Clerk to the Board

