MEETING OF WENATCHEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE RE: ELECTORAL PROCESS

August 24, 2015

WENATCHEE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
129 S. Chelan Avenue Wenatchee, WA 98801

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER 5:30 PM

II. INTRODUCTIONS (20 minutes)

III. MAYOR FRANK KUNTZ (15 minutes)
- History of Wenatchee forms of government
- Review Resolution forming the committee
- Description of current project

IV. TRAINING RE: ADVISORY COMMITTEES (15 minutes)

V. COMMITTEE TIMELINE (5 minutes)

V. DISCUSS REQUESTED BACKGROUND MATERIALS (25 minutes)
- Yakima decision – introduce City Attorney Steve Smith
- Yakima court filings which include data supporting either districting or at large voting
- How does Yakima compare/contrast with Wenatchee?
- List of cities in state where council members are elected by district
- What do other cities our size do?
- What do other cities with similar diversity do?
- Is there any research on the impact of districting vs. at large voting on voter turnout?
- Is there any research on the impact of districting vs. at large voting on number of candidates?

- City Attorney Steve Smith's memo to the City Council
- Map of past and current elected council members
- Maps of School District/City precincts/districts/boundaries
- Map of the city indicating: population, registered voters, actual voters, ethnicity, income
- Chelan-Douglas Trends information regarding voter participation

VI. NEXT STEPS (10 minutes)
- Meeting schedule
- Assignments

VII. ADJOURNMENT 7:00 PM

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Mayor's office at (509) 888-6204 (TTY 711). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title 1.)

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-36

A RESOLUTION, appointing an ad hoc advisory committee to study and make recommendations to the City Council related to the electoral process for City Council members.

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Wenatchee desires to appoint an ad hoc advisory committee to examine the City's electoral process, specifically whether dividing the City into districts for purposes of electing Council members would provide more equal opportunities for all citizens to participate in the City's political process.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Wenatchee does hereby resolve as follows:

SECTION I

That an ad hoc advisory committee shall be established for the purpose of examining the electoral process for City Council members to determine whether changes would be beneficial for a fair and equal electoral process. Specifically, the committee shall examine whether creating a districting system would be beneficial and, if so, the number of Districts that would be fair and equal, and recommended boundaries of any proposed districts consistent with state and federal law. The committee shall develop a recommendation and report back to the City Council within twelve (12) months of the date of this Resolution.

SECTION II

The committee shall consist of the following members listed in alphabetical order:

Susan Albert	1515 Erin Place, Wenatchee
Oralia Banuelos	923 Kittitas, Wenatchee
Mario Cantu	1507 4th Street, Wenatchee
Carolyn Case	729 Monroe, Wenatchee
Alma Chacon	614 Highland, Wenatchee
Gustavo Montoya	851 Walker, Wenatchee
Joe Morrison	310 Whitebirch Place, Wenatchee
Karen Rutherford	2105 Ione, Wenatchee
Jean Speidel	1031 Grenz, Wenatchee
Mark Urdahl	1125 Amherst, Wenatchee
Rufus Woods	104 S. Delaware, Wenatchee

SECTION III

The committee shall develop its own meeting and work schedule. All meetings of the committee shall be open to the public and governed by the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 42.30 RCW. The committee shall work with City staff for information and guidance as needed. The City shall provide the committee with legal counsel independent from the City attorney's office on a budget approved by the Mayor's office from the City's general fund budget for administrative expense.

SECTION IV

The committee's recommendations to the City Council shall be for guidance purposes only and shall not be binding on the City Council.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WENATCHEE at a regular meeting thereof this _____ day of July, 2015.

CITY OF WENATCHEE, a Municipal Corporation

By_____
FRANK KUNTZ, Mayor

ATTEST:

By_____
TAMMY L. STANGER
City Clerk

APPROVED:

By_____
STEVE D. SMITH, City Attorney