

KETCHIKAN CHARTER COMMISSION

AGENDA STATEMENT

NO H-2 (b)

MEETING OF **June 18, 2004**

ITEM TITLE Amend Article II, Section 2.05 (b) – Vice Mayor SUBMITTED BY Harriett Edwards, Borough Clerk

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Borough Clerk, Harriett Edwards, has made suggestions to amend the Draft Charter in a number of different areas.

Article II, Section 2.05 (b) reads:

Vice Mayor. At the first meeting after the time prescribed for beginning of the terms for newly elected members, the Assembly shall elect from its membership a vice mayor who shall act as mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor or as provided in Section 2.04(c) above. The vice mayor shall vote as an assemblymember but shall never have the power to veto.

Clerk Edwards suggests the paragraph should be revised to read: “At the first regular meeting of the Assembly in November of each year, the Assembly shall elect from its membership a vice mayor who shall act as mayor during the absence, disability, or vacancy in the office of the mayor. The vice mayor shall vote as an Assembly member but shall never have the power to veto.”

She explains the change by saying it is necessary to be very clear when establishing timeframes for certain actions. In the event of the absence of the mayor the community would be without a vice mayor for only two or three weeks since certification of the election occurs about a week after the election. This allows time for newly elected Assembly members to be considered and for a newly elected mayor to become familiar with the Assembly members.

City Clerk, Katy Suiter, offered the following comments on this change: “This ties in with Section 2.02 (f), and unless this section specifically references November, I would recommend leaving it as is. Currently for the City of Ketchikan, election of a vice mayor typically happens at the same time as certification of the election so there is no time lapse at all with regards to a vice mayor. The Borough may do theirs differently, but there has been no problem with this on the City side of life.

Ms. Edwards added the following after reading Ms. Suiter’s comments: I suggested the change to 2.05 as a means to allow incoming Assembly members a bit of time to become acquainted with each other prior to electing a vice mayor. I don’t have strong feelings about my suggestion and would be comfortable with whatever was decided.

MOTION:

“I move to make the changes to Section 2.05 (b) as suggested by Ms. Edwards.”