

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION

INFORMAL NOTES

Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
Third Floor Conference Room - City Hall
815 Washington Street, Reading, PA 19601

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Moment of Silence or Prayer

III. Roll Call

The following Members were in attendance: David Myers, Ann Sheehan, Pastor Evelyn Morrison, Sheila Perez, Virna Quinones and Debra Bradford.

Members absent: Tanya Melendez, Brian Grubb, Jonathan Mejia and Carlos Rivera

Staff present: Edwin L. Stock, Esquire, Solicitor

There were an insufficient number of members in attendance to establish a quorum thus, no meeting was held.

IV. Public Comments - Agenda Related

There were no public comments.

V. Opening Remarks - Chair

The Chair remarked that the Charter Review Commission needed to focus on questions related to the Home Rule Charter.

VI. Overview of Charter Review Commission Purpose & Scope

VII. Approval of Letter to City Council/Mayor Regarding Extension of Time for Charter Review Commission

VIII. Hiring Interpreter Service for Commission Meetings

IX. Hiring Recording Secretary/Translator

X. Meeting Schedule

XI. Discussion of Next Priorities & Work Plan

No action was taken on any of the above Agenda Items due to the lack of quorum.

XII. Public Comment - General

There were no public comments.

The members present reviewed a list of questions presented by Mr. Myers. This list of

questions is attached. The members present reviewed the Charter, Article II. There was discussion concerning Section 207 of the Charter and filling a vacancy in office. There was a discussion regarding Section 1002(c) of the Charter. There was discussion about Section 209 of the Charter. The Solicitor was directed to prepare some proposed language to follow this discussion.

XIII. Adjournment

There was no formal adjournment since a meeting was not held, however, the discussion ended at 7:35 p.m.

Questions on
no. 10/16/25

Interview Questions for City Council Members Districts 1 to 4.

1. Do you believe the current Strong Mayor–Council form of government continues to reflect the will and needs of Reading's diverse population?
2. What is your position on efforts to transition to a Council–Manager form of government?
3. How will you ensure that the Home Rule Charter Review process includes meaningful input from all residents including renters, youth, public housing residents, Afro-Latino and African American communities, and small business owners?
4. Do you support placing proposed changes on the ballot only if they originate from citizen input and public hearings or should council be allowed to propose changes??
5. How do you respond to concerns that the Spanish language version of the Charter has not been legally certified.
6. The Nominations Committee has historically excluded residents with economic hardships—such as late tax payments or parking fines—from serving on boards and commissions. Do you believe this is fair and equitable?
7. How do you reconcile the fact that City Council members have been placed on payment plans without being held to the same exclusionary standards?
9. A resolution of City Council establishing a requirement that the Charter be available in Spanish was adopted in 2019 and 2024. The 2024 resolution said that "The English language version of the City of Reading Charter shall always be the authoritative legal version of the City Charter. Accordingly, this unofficial Spanish translated version of the City Charter is neither binding nor has any legal effect." Was this language necessary or should the Spanish translation also be a legal version of the Charter?
10. Do you support legally recognizing the Spanish translation as equal to the English version?
11. What is your response to the continued lack of Spanish-language closed captioning for televised City Council meetings?
12. HUD has documented economic barriers created by those overseeing zoning and planning applications. How will you address these systemic issues?
13. How do you respond to concerns that zoning variances are approved selectively?
14. Do you believe the \$1,000 zoning hearing fee—regardless of outcome—is reasonable? If not, what reforms would you support?
15. CRIZ is tasked with revitalizing the city through strategic planning. Why have only select organizations—such as Habitat for Humanity and Neighborhood Housing Services—been approved to sit at the decision-making table?
16. What steps will you take to ensure that all Reading businesses and grassroots organizations have equal access to CRIZ planning and funding opportunities?