

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 11, 2025, | 5:30 PM
Council Chambers, Reading City Hall, 2nd Floor
815 Washington St, Reading, PA 19601

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 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: Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison, David Myers, Carlos Rivera (via Zoom), Debra Bradford (via Zoom), Virna Quinones, Tanya Melendez, Jonathan Mejia and Claudette Bullock.

Members absent were Sheila Perez and Ann Sheehan.

Staff present: Edwin L. Stock, Esquire, Solicitor.

With eight members present, there were a sufficient number of members present to establish a quorum.

IV. Public Comments – Public Hearing

Reverend Maria Vializ spoke. Reverend Vializ indicated that Reading has too many homeless and that there needs to be rent control. She indicated many people do not want to become involved to petition for rent control. In her opinion, this means landlords can do whatever they want including increasing rent. Reverend Vializ indicated something needs to be done about this. Reverend Vializ indicated there needs to be unity on these issues. Rent control is needed in Pennsylvania. Reverend Vializ was asked for her opinion on how to accomplish this. Reverend Vializ indicated the community needs to unite to talk to the legislators and work to develop more housing.

Regina Morrison spoke. Ms. Morrison indicated she has concerns about her living arrangements. She has been trying to obtain assistance from various agencies but is not getting anywhere with these agencies. She is facing homelessness. Ms. Morrison indicated she does not understand why there is homelessness. Ms. Morrison also indicated that abandoned buildings are a problem.

V. Opening Remarks – Chair

The Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison, indicated she did not have opening remarks but thanked the members of the Commission for their work.

Mr. Rivera moved to approve the Minutes of the December 4, 2025 meeting. Mr. Mejia seconded the motion. This motion passed 8 - 0.

The Chair then asked members of the Charter Review Commission to share their experiences with the survey. Ms. Melendez reported on her experience with results, indicating that the general response was a lack of awareness of the Charter and City government. Mr. Myers, Mr. Mejia, Ms. Quinones, Ms. Bradford, and Reverend Morrison reported on their experiences.

There was a discussion about the survey not asking if people were interested in serving on a City board, authority or a commission. Ms. Melendez raised a point of order regarding this discussion. Ms. Melendez indicated that the Commission needs to focus on its task of reviewing the Charter. Ms. Melendez indicated the Commission is going off in directions which do not fall within the purview of the Commission and raised this point in connection with the discussion about the people serving on boards, authorities and commissions.

Dionne Stubbs, Vice President of the Reading branch of the NAACP then spoke. Ms. Stubbs indicated that the survey has been distributed to members of her organization and that her organization wants to help to get the word out to the community about the Home Rule Charter. Ms. Stubbs indicated that her group has 250 to 300 members.

VI. Overview of Charter Review Commission Purpose & Scope

No action taken.

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

No action taken.

VIII. Hiring Interpreter Service for Commission Meetings

No action taken.

IX. Hiring Recording Secretary/Translator

No action taken.

X. Meeting Schedule

December 18, 2025 - Council Chambers

January 8, 2026 - Council Chambers

January 15, 2026 - Council Chambers

January 22, 2026 - Council Chambers

January 29, 2026 - Council Chambers

XI. Discussion of Next Priorities & Work Plan

There was a discussion about the Department of Public Health. Mr. Myers explained his perspective on the need for a Department of Public Health. Mr. Myers has put forth his thoughts regarding this topic in writing and circulated this to the members of the

Commission. Mr. Myers is asking for any input from members of the Commission on his thoughts.

Pastor Morrison presented a fact sheet regarding toxic trespass. The Chair expressed her viewpoints on this issue.

The Chair suggested the possibility of scheduling a workshop meeting of three to four hours in length, possibly on a Saturday. The Chair indicated the Commission needed to focus on the referendum and ballot questions and the Commission's report.

XII. Public Comment – General

There was no additional public comment.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m. Ms. Melendez moved to adjourn the meeting.