

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 18, 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 5:35 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, Debra Bradford, Tanya Melendez, Jonathan Mejia, Sheila Perez, and Ann Sheehan.

Ms. Bullock arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Members absent were Carlos Rivera, Virna Quinones,

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

There were a sufficient number of members present to establish a quorum.

IV. Public Comments – Public Hearing

Regina Morrison spoke regarding the issue of homelessness in the City. She indicated she wished there was something the City could do about homelessness. Ms. Morrison also expressed concerns about the Parking Authority and the Parking Authority's enforcement of parking rules and regulations.

Tracey Savignac spoke. She indicated that she agreed entirely with the comments of Ms. Morrison.

V. Opening Remarks – Chair

Ms. Melendez made a motion to approve the Minutes of the December 11, 2025 meeting. Ms. Bradford seconded the motion. All present voted in favor of the motion.

The Chair brought to the attention of the Commission City Ordinances and prior ballot questions. The Chair asked for questions on toxic trespass and mentioned the toxic trespass factsheet which had previously been distributed.

Mr. Mejia suggested amending Article 9, particularly Section 9.1.4, to institute a requirement for a forensic audit. There was a discussion regarding the details of Mr.

Mejia's suggestion. Questions were asked about the differences between an independent audit and a forensic audit.

Mr. Myers and Ms. Bradford reported they are looking at the Citizen's Service Center. Apparently, there is no reporting of issues raised by citizens to the Citizen's Service Center and the Citizen's Service Center only appears to report to the Treasury Office. There is a concern that the Citizen's Service Center is not connected to City Boards, Authorities and Commissions.

Mr. Myers also reviewed the other ideas which he had raised previously for possible referendum questions. These included merging the Board of Ethics and the Charter Board and proposing regulations regarding whether or not outstanding parking tickets would disqualify a citizen from serving on a City Board, Authority or Commission.

There was a discussion about the method of appointing members to the Board of Ethics and Charter Board.

There was discussion about trying to keep politics out of this process. Ms. Sheehan indicated she thinks giving the Mayor the sole power of appointment could be problematic. Mr. Myers indicated he would write a proposal for the Board of Ethics and Charter Board appointments.

The Chair recapped for the members present all of the potential referendum topics which had been discussed.

Ms. Perez expressed her opinion about qualifications of people appointed to Boards, Commissions and Authorities. Ms. Perez feels there has been economic discrimination against possible appointments due to the qualification requirements for appointments.

There was a discussions that citizens who have a payment plan or are seeking to resolve a payment issue should not be disqualified from being appointed to a City Board, Authority or Commission.

Mr. Myers responded by referencing his proposal regarding disqualification for parking tickets.

Ms. Melendez indicated she feels that if someone is not paying their taxes that should be a disqualification for appointment to a City Board, Authority or Commission. Ms. Melendez indicated not paying taxes is much different than not paying parking tickets since everyone has probably received parking tickets.

Pastor Morrison is supportive of allowing people who have a payment plan in place to be appointed to a City Board, Authority or Commission.

Ms. Morrison also indicated she thinks there should be robust orientation for all new Board members and she thinks the Charter Board should play a role in this orientation.

Ms. Melendez requested discussion about the Public Health Department. She thinks there should be a proposal which sets forth a step-by-step process to ramp up to a fully operational public health department. Allowing a period of time to become fully operational would ease any budgetary concerns.

In connection with the Public Health Department, Mr. Myers thinks there are many potential community partners for the Public Health Department, such as the local hospitals, RACC and Alvernia, foundations, etc.

Ms. Sheehan feels strongly that the preamble to the Home Rule Charter should be revised. Ms. Sheehan volunteered to work on language for a revised preamble. Ms. Bradford expressed concerns that the preamble is not enforceable and suggested that provisions could be added to the Charter to permit enforcement of civil rights. Ms. Perez expressed her opinions regarding equal treatment for all groups and suggested that the Charter require City officials to provide equal treatment for all and to not discriminate against any group or individual.

The Chair proposed scheduling a workshop of 4 hours in length. There was discussion about holding a workshop and at this point no workshop has been scheduled.

Mr. Myers suggested that everyone should share their referendum or ballot question ideas electronically prior to the January 8, 2026 meeting.

The Chair thinks there should be a total of 6 proposed ballot amendments for the primary election and 6 for the general election.

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

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

Issues referenced under this portion of the Agenda were discussed during the Chair's remarks.

XII. Public Comment – General

There was no additional public comment.

XIII. Adjournment

Mr. Myers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at that time.