

Approved
1/22/26

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 22, 2026, | 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 by Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison at 5:59 p.m.

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Moment of Silence or Prayer

III. Roll Call

The following Members were in attendance: Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison, Claudette Bullock, David Myers, Jonathan Mejia, Tanya Melendez (via Zoom) and Ann Sheehan (via phone).

Members absent were Virna Quinones, Carlos Rivera, Debra Bradford and Sheila Perez.

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

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

IV. Public Comments - Agenda Related

There were no public comments.

V. Opening Remarks – Chair

The Chair indicated she had gathered some information regarding City boards, authorities, and commissions. The Chair mentioned that there are at least seven boards which have no female members. The Chair indicated that only 35% of board positions are occupied by women. The Chair indicated that she ordered an EEOC form which apparently contains demographic information regarding City employees.

David Myers moved to approve the Minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting. Tanya Melendez seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

VI. Meeting Schedule

January 29, 2026 - Council Chambers

VII. Discussion of Next Priorities & Work Plan

(a) Review of Survey Results.

The Chair indicated she is working to get the results compiled.

(b) **Consideration of Referendum Questions/Approval of Referendum Questions**
See attached.

(c) **Consideration of Department of Health.**
This was discussed as part of Subparagraph (b) above.

(d) **Consideration of Toxic Trespass.**
This was not reached.

VIII. Public Comments – General
There were no public comment.

IX. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

DRAFT REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

1. Shall the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to create a Department of Public Health with the authority to collaborate with community partners and which will be fully operational within two years of voter approval?

Mr. Myers suggested making consideration of a Department of Public Health only a recommendation to City Council

Ms. Melendez suggested extending the period of time for implementation to three years.

Ms. Melendez moved to approve this question as written. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sheehan. The vote was as follows:

Morrison	Yes
Melendez	Yes
Bullock	No
Myers	No
Mejia	No
Sheehan	Yes

The motion failed 3-3.

Mr. Myers moved to defer action on this question and solicit input from Council and the Administration, Ms. Sheehan seconded. The vote was as follows:

Morrison	Yes
Melendez	Yes
Bullock	No
Myers	Yes
Mejia	Yes
Sheehan	Yes

The motion passed 5-1.

2. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(c) Membership of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to allow individuals with outstanding parking tickets of \$300.00 or less to be appointed to City boards, commissions or authorities?

This question was withdrawn on January 15, 2026.

3. Shall Article XII General Provisions Section 1201(c) and the Enforcement of Charter section be amended to merge the Board of Ethics and Charter Board into one Board called Ethics and Charter Board?

Approved - January 15, 2026.

4. Shall Article II Council - The Legislative Branch Section 209(h) be added to the Reading Home Rule Charter to provide that no member of city council shall serve as a voting board member of any municipal authority?

Ms. Sheehan moved to withdraw. This motion died from lack of a second.

Mr. Myers moved to adopt this question as written. Mr. Mejia seconded. The vote is as follows:

Morrison	Yes
Myers	Yes
Bullock	No
Melendez	No
Sheehan	Yes
Sheehan	Yes

This motion carried 4-2.

5. Shall Article II Council - The Legislative Branch Section 225 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the term of the City Clerk shall be five years and that the City Clerk shall not hold any office or position in a political party?

Ms. Melendez moved to approve. Mr. Mejia seconded. The vote was as follows:

Morrison	Yes
Melendez	Yes
Bullock	Yes
Myers	Yes
Sheehan	Yes
Mejia	Yes

The motion carried 6-0.

- 5.(a) Shall Article II Council - The Legislative Branch Section 225 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the term of the City Clerk shall be five years and that the City Clerk shall not hold any office or position in a political party and that the City Clerk shall only hold office for two (2) five (5) year terms.

Mr. Myers moved to withdraw. Ms. Melendez seconded. The vote was as follows:

Morrison	Yes
Melendez	Yes
Bullock	Yes
Myers	Yes
Sheehan	Yes
Mejia	Yes

The motion carried 6-0.

6. Shall Article III Executive Branch Section 309(a) of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to add that the Mayor shall appoint one Chief of Police?

Approved - January 15, 2026.

7. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(d) be added to the Reading Home Rule Charter to provide that no member of an authority, board or commission may serve more than three terms consecutively?

Ms. Sheehan moved to approve. Mr. Myers seconded. The vote was as follows:

Morrison	Yes
Melendez	No
Sheehan	Yes
Mejia	Yes
Myers	Yes
Bullock	Yes

The motion was approved 5-1.

8. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(e) of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that no active City employee may be appointed or serve on an authority, board or commission?

No action was taken. There was a suggestion of adding language regarding adding "voting member" and/or combining this with No. 4.

9. Shall Article XIII Transition Section 1312 of the Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to provide that the boundaries of council districts shall be realigned every ten years based on the most recent U.S. Census so as to provide for proportionate representation?

Approved - January 15, 2026.

10. Shall the Preamble to the Home Rule Charter of the City of Reading be amended to include this statement about equal and inclusive treatment?:

“ensure equitable and inclusive access to all residents without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, language, sexual preference, religion, and/or immigration status to the City’s governmental programing, services, and processes.”

Approved - January 15, 2026.

11. Shall Article X Boards and Commissions Section 1002(c) be amended so that the last section reads "Appointees may serve concurrently on more than one authority, board or commission"?

This was not reached.

12. Shall the Home Rule Charter Section X Boards and Commissions be amended by adding Section 1002(d) to provide that individuals should not be disqualified from appointments to an authority, board or commission because of taxes, fines or other amounts owed to the City provided that at the time of such appointment evidence exists of satisfactory arrangements for payment of such amounts?

Approved - January 15, 2026.

13. Shall the Home rule Charter Article X Boards and Commissions be amended by adding Section 1002(e) which will provide “upon appointment to an authority, board or commission, the appointee shall receive from the City two hours of orientation regarding the purpose, operations and affairs of the authority, board or commission”?

January 22, 2026 - This question was not reached.

14. Shall the Home Rule Charter Article IX Financial Procedures be amended by adding Section 916 which provides that City Council may, on its own initiative or at the request of the Mayor, by ordinance direct that a forensic audit of any City department be performed by a qualified forensic auditor? If the Mayor requests that Council direct that a forensic audit be performed, Council shall authorize such forensic audit unless five (5) members of Council vote that such forensic audit is not required.

January 22, 2026 - This question was not reached.