

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 12, 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 5:35 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, Tanya Melendez, David Myers, Ann Sheehan, Jonathan Mejia, Claudette Bullock (via Zoom), and Debra Bradford (via Zoom).

Members absent were: Virna Quinones, Carlos Rivera 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

Cesar Cepeda made comments. He indicated that he was excited about the freedom from toxic trespass referendum question. He felt this would leave a legacy behind for our children and was important for environmental safety.

Tracey Savignac spoke. Ms. Savignac indicated that she has lived in Reading since 2014 and that she has noticed that there are many people who are sick.

David Rodriguez spoke. He shared some of his experiences with toxic trespass issues.

V. Opening Remarks – Chair

The Chair made remarks regarding the process of getting the approved referendum questions on an upcoming ballot.

Ms. Melendez made a motion to approve the meeting Minutes from the February 5, 2026 meeting. Ms. Sheehan seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

VI. Meeting Schedule

There are two more scheduled meetings on February 19, 2026 and February 26, 2026 in City Council Chambers.

VII. Discussion of Next Priorities & Work Plan

(a) Review of Survey Results.

No action.

(b) Consideration of Referendum Questions/Approval of Referendum Questions See below.

(c) Consideration of Department of Health.

No further action was taken.

(d) Consideration of Toxic Trespass.

The Chair distributed a proposed referendum question regarding toxic trespass.

Mr. Myers proposed an alternative referendum question regarding toxic trespass. Mr. Myers explained he was proposing an alternative due to the complexity of the issue.

Ms. Melendez said it is not the role of the Charter Review Commission to create ordinances.

Ms. Sheehan indicated that the toxic trespass question would be duplicative of existing federal and state law and that she could not support the referendum.

Ms. Bradford moved to approve the draft referendum question proposed by the Chair. Mr. Mejia seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Morrison – Yes; Myers – No; Melendez – No; Mejia – Yes; Bradford – Yes; Bullock – Yes; Sheehan – No. This motion carried 4-3. A copy of the approved referendum question regarding toxic trespass is attached to these Minutes.

Mr. Myers then read his form of referendum question. A copy of Mr. Myers proposed referendum question is attached to these Minutes. Mr. Myers indicated that his proposed referendum question would be to add language to the Preamble to the Home Rule Charter.

Mr. Myers moved to approve his proposed referendum question. Ms. Sheehan seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Morrison – Yes; Mejia – Yes; Myers – Yes; Sheehan – Yes; Bullock – Yes; Bradford – Yes; Melendez – Yes. This motion carried 7-0.

Ms. Sheehan then moved to withdraw the approved referendum question No. 9. This referendum question dealt with reapportioning council districts. Ms. Sheehan indicated that she was moving to withdraw the motion because a mechanism already exists to reapportion council districts. Ms. Melendez seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Morrison – Yes; Sheehan – Yes; Myers – Yes; Bradford – Yes; Melendez – Yes; Bullock – Yes; Mejia – Yes. This motion carried 7-0.

- (e) Ms. Melendez made a motion to approve the draft Ordinances prepared by the solicitor and to authorize the submission of these Ordinances to City Council for adoption pursuant to Section 1203 of the Charter which will require the approved referendum questions to be placed on an upcoming ballot. Ms. Bradford seconded this motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Morrison – Yes; Myers – Yes; Mejia – Yes; Melendez – Yes; Sheehan – Yes; Bradford – Yes; Bullock – Yes. The motion carried 7-0.

VIII. Public Comments – General

Ms. Savignac and Mr. Rodriguez made brief additional comments.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

15. "Shall the City of Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to add Article XIV Section 1 to establish a Freedom from Toxic Trespass Right to protect residents and the local environment from any poisonous health hazards? The Freedom from Toxic Trespass Right shall prohibit any person, corporation, LLC, or government from violating this right and shall impose liability for all toxic substances and hold all violators legally accountable. The Mayor and City Council shall enact the necessary ordinances to effectuate the purposes of this section in the City of Reading Home Rule Charter."

16. Shall the City of Reading Home Rule Charter be amended to add the following to the Preamble of the Home Rule Charter:

“Whereas, Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution provides that the people have a right to clean air, pure waters and the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As a trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all people. The government of the City of Reading shall commit to preserving and protecting these natural resources and the rights of people to clean air, pure water and preserving its natural resources.”