

**CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 4, 2025, | 5:30 PM
Penn Room, Reading City Hall, 1st Floor
815 Washington St, 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: Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison, Sheila Perez, David Myers, Ann Sheehan, Carlos Rivera, Debra Bradford, Virna Quinones, Tanya Melendez, Jonathan Mejia and Claudette Bullock.

There were no members absent.

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

There were a sufficient number of members in attendance to establish a quorum. There is still a vacancy on the Commission.

IV. Public Comments – Agenda Related

Arturo Bobea, a certified court interpreter, spoke regarding the difficulties of engagement with the community because of the language barrier. Mr. Bobea indicated he is trained to perform simultaneous interpretation. Mr. Bobea said he could also translate documents although he did indicate there are nuances among languages. Mr. Bobea offered to provide services to the Charter Review Commission pro bono.

V. Opening Remarks – Chair

The Chair, Pastor Evelyn Morrison welcomed Claudette Bullock as a new member. Ms. Bullock indicated she is looking to catch up and figure out where the Charter Review Commission is going.

At this point, Ms. Melendez made a motion to accept the services of Arturo Bobea. Ms. Bradford seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

At this point the Chair permitted Fred Thompson to provide public comment. Mr. Thompson said that he has reviewed the Charter. He wondered whether there could be financial incentives to improve job performance. Mr. Thompson believes there needs to be clarification regarding term limits. Mr. Thompson indicated he is interested in being appointed to the Charter Review Commission.

At this point, Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 20, 2025 meeting. There was a correction to Page 2 of the Minutes to change the word from November to December. Ms. Perez seconded the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

There was a long discussion regarding the survey. The survey has been translated into Spanish.

The Chair requested everyone to obtain a minimum of ten completed surveys.

At this point, Ms. Bullock made a motion to approve the Spanish translation. This motion was seconded by Ms. Bradford. The motion carried unanimously.

There was further discussion regarding the email which the Chair sent to Mayor Moran, Attorney Lachat, and others on December 3, 2025. After a discussion, Ms. Perez made a motion to ratify the email and to incorporate the email into the record of the December 4, 2025 proceedings. This motion was seconded by Ms. Bradford. Mr. Myers then made a motion to amend Ms. Perez's motion to limit Charter Review Commission action to simply placing the email in the record of the December 4, 2025 Meeting Minutes. Ms. Sheehan seconded the motion. The motion to amend the motion passed unanimously. Ms. Perez read the email into the record. Ms. Melendez indicated she had some concerns about the use of the term "we" in the email. Ms. Bradford indicated she had the same concerns. Ms. Perez indicated she believed the email needed to be sent. Ms. Melendez indicated she thought the email should have been approved by the full Charter Review Commission prior to the email being sent. At this point the question was called. Ms. Morrison, Ms. Perez, Ms. Bullock, Ms. Melendez, Mr. Myers, Ms. Sheehan, Mr. Mejia, Mr. Rivera, and Ms. Bradford were in favor of the motion. Ms. Quinones was opposed. The motion carried nine to one and the email is incorporated into the record and is attached hereto.

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

The meeting schedule for December is on the Agenda. December 11, 2025 and December 18, 2025 are scheduled to be public hearings. The Chair requested all members of the Charter Review Commission to invite people to the public hearings.

XI. Discussion of Next Priorities & Work Plan

There was discussion regarding assignments to members of the Commission to circulate the survey.

There was discussion about proposed referendum questions. Mr. Myers presented topics that he circulated. Ms. Sheehan presented topics that she circulated. Ms. Perez presented topics that she circulated.

XII. Public Comment – General

There was no further public comment.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Ed Stock

From: Rev. Evelyn W Morrison, MBA <abbasadvocates@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 12:19 PM
To: Eddie.Moran@readingpa.gov; fred.lachat@readingpa.gov; Ed Stock; Linda Kelleher; ken.cochran@readingpa.gov; Sheila Perez; Tanya Melendez; Debra Bradford; Dave Myers; Virna Quiñones-Escalera; Jonathan Mejia; Carlos Rivera; Comcast; council@readingpa.gov
Subject: The Charter Review Commission Survey.

Dear Mayor Eddie Moran, Attorney Lachat et al

I hope everyone had a wonderful gathering with family and friend as we give thanks to be alive in this moment of uncertainty.

It is with great disappointment this email highlights "everything that could go wrong, did go wrong" when we are speaking about the City of Reding Charter Review Commission Survey and other circumstances.

The CRC Survey as posted is the not the survey that was voted on and corrected. Why this version of the survey posted with the sidebar notes for the public to see is highly questionable. The question remains, how and why did this take place?

Any professional handling this task, would have place a phone call to clarify if the sidebar notes were to be included as part of the survey going to the public.

Also I must mention that because our population is majority Spanish speaking and the City of Reading's reluctance to facilitate the captions to all our city council meetings and provide interpreters helping to educate the over 70 percent population that are affected on a day to day is also highly questionable.

Which also calls to question why a certified copy of the Spanish translation of our Home Rule Charter has not yet been printed or made available to our Spanish Speaking residents as they are made readily available for the English speaking. This treatment is disparate.

Additionally, the correction to the survey email, was purposely ignored. Linda K. suggested the email for the CRC should be "CRCsolicitor@readingpa.gov. I suggested the email not go to the solicitor. But rather the email for the CRC should be identified as CharterReviewcom@readingpa.gov. At which point I shared this with the City Clerk, Linda K. However the goal of the Commission was to have a readingpa.gov address not a Gmail address. Needless to say, the email is not what we had planned and not set with the corrected identification as the @readingpa.gov. This must be redone.

We have also experienced untimely appointments, on and off the Commission, the lack of an "on boarding" process, that was successfully afforded by the City Clerk to other Charter Review processes, ie. 2013-2014 and 2019-2020 commissions. Please note that two members, Sheila Perez and myself, Pastor Evelyn Morrison sat on the 2019-2020 Review Commission.

Additionally the lack of resources that had our meetings thwarted by not allowing us the ability to record in the City Council chambers with the sound and video capabilities where the public can participate in our meetings effectively.

Not to mention the Charter Review Commission's invitation to our legislatures and our Governing body to meet with the Commission as an integral part of the review process which went out to all of City Council, the City Clerk, and the Administration. Only the City Auditor participated. We thank Maria Rodriguez and appreciate her diligence.

It give us pause, as to why interruptions continue to keep us losing valuable time and have not been accepted as a formal body of Commissioners.

The City Manager's response to our concerns was to have the commission send him an email of what the Commission needed as we go into the second half of the 6 month time limit. We need collaboration and not deliberate obstruction for our process and purpose in order to review, report, recommend to City Council the commissions recommendations for the ballot questions for the 2026 primary and general election to the public.

From my direct observation and knowledge as a seasoned and involved community servant Leader, if is my perception, then the novice becoming involved with our government of the people, by the people and for the people are treat, so help us God!

I look forward to open discussions on this matter and immediate resolve. This will then afford the commission the opportunity for a renewed commitment. I pray.

Pastor Evelyn W. Morrison, MBA
Chair -Charter Review Commission 2025- 2026