

## **City of Reading Charter Board**

December 20, 2011- 7:00 pm  
Penn Room

Members Present: Susan Gibson, John Slifko, Gerry Richter, Barry Lloyd,  
Members Absent: Elizabeth Stanley

Members of Public and Invited Guests: None

### **I. Administration**

- The Boards next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday January 3, 2012. Susan has contacted the City Clerks office and public notice for 2012 meetings has been arranged.
- Susan Gibson updated members on the status of obtaining a city sponsored email account for open records requests. Susan received and signed a copy of the City of Reading Computer and Network use policy on December 9th. The Board awaits a draft policy from its solicitor regarding procedure for request of open records.
- Charter Board budget YTD and current invoices were reviewed. To date the Board has expended \$47,460.84

### **II. Education**

- The League of Women Voters BCTV program on January 17, 2012 (8:00 – 9:00 pm) will feature the Charter Boards annual update to the public. Susan Gibson will moderate.

### **III. Advisory**

- Advisory Opinions #26 & #27 - On December 13, 2011, the Board received two requests for Advisory Opinion relating to filling the upcoming vacancy of City Council President; one request came from Linda Kelleher on behalf of City Council, the other was submitted by Dr. Gary Wegman, a member of the Act 47 Advisory Board.

In response to specific questions presented, the Board opined that:

- 1) any appointee must be a qualified voter who has resided in the city continuously for a period of one year prior to May 14, 2009 (date of the last primary election for the office of City Council President),
- 2) the definition of qualified voter remains as stated in Advisory Opinion #5,

- 3) The internal rules of Council should govern the application and recommendation process.
  - 4) the Charter does not limit a Councilor from voting on the matter, so long as such a vote occurs in a Charter compliant manner, and finally
  - 5) All qualified residents may be considered to fill the vacancy.
- Following discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Lloyd, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Richter to issue Advisory Opinions # 26 and #27 as discussed. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote. The Board Solicitor will draft and issue the opinions.

#### **IV. Enforcement**

The chair announced that on December 9, 2011 Judge Sprecher denied the appeal and sustained in full the Final Opinion and Order of the Charter Board regarding Investigation #31. To date, no further appeals have been submitted. The appeal period to Commonwealth Court exhausts January 9, 2012

#### **V. Closing –Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm**