

City of Reading Charter Board

Meeting Minutes from March 1, 2016

7:00 pm – Penn Room

Members Present: James Fegley, Susan Williams, Elizabeth Stanley, Thomas Anewalt

Others: Eric Smith, Board Solicitor

I. Administration

- The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Mr. Fegley.
- The Board's next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, 2016.
- No Right to Know requests have been received.
- Meeting minutes from February 16, 2016 were distributed for review. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Anewalt, 2nd by Ms. Stanley. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote.

II. Education

- The Charter Board general orientation session for newly elected city officials and other interested parties is scheduled for 7:00 pm, April 19th. The education session will be held in lieu of the regular Charter Board meeting.

III. Advisory

- The Board reviewed a draft of Advisory Opinion #39 during executive session (see Action Items), and a written response will be issued on or before March 7, 2016.

IV. Solicitor's Report

- The Board chair announced an Executive Session to confer with counsel regarding the Solicitor's Report, and to confer with counsel regarding Advisory Opinion #39. The Board entered Executive Session at 7:40 pm, and returned to public session at 8:25 pm.

V. Public Comment

- No members of the public present.

VI. Action Items

- Following public comment, a motion was made by Mr. Anewalt, 2nd by Ms. Stanley to adopt and issue Advisory Opinion #39 with revisions as discussed. The motion passed by unanimous verbal vote and a written decision will follow. It is the Opinion of the Board that Charter § 209(d), prohibiting City Council from dealing with “departmental and bureau employees” only “through the Mayor or the Managing Director,” does not apply to the City Clerk, or her staff, except in the circumstance where City Council expressly directs the Clerk’s conduct, in which case the City Clerk and her staff are limited by the prohibitions of that section.

VII. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Susan Williams, Vice Chair