

The meeting of the 2013 Charter Review Commission was held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 City Hall, 815 Washington St, Reading, PA 19601, Penn Room. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Rosemary Frank-Vitale.

Members of the Commission present were: Rosemary Frank-Vitale, Anne Sheehan, Thomas Anewalt, Randy Corcoran, David M. Cituk, John Slifco, Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz, Michael H. Reese, Carl E. Geffken and Frank B. Dembowski.

Members not present were:

Also present was Francis G. Acosta, Stratton P. Marmarou and Linda Kelleher, City Council, Eron Lloyd and Vaughn D. Spencer, City Administration, Carole Snyder, City Managing Director, Charles D. Younger, City Solicitor, Paul Janssen, Charter Review Commission Facilitator, Ernest Schlegel, Citizen and Carol R. Lewis, Recording Secretary.

Minutes - Motion by J. Slifco second by R. Corcoran and unanimously carried to accept the minutes of August 7, 2013 as presented.

Public Comments/Visitors - Ernie Schlegel encouraged the Council and Administration to concentrate on housekeeping of the Charter, not who gets the most power. He would like to see more districts that are smaller to give more voice and representation to the residents.

Continued discussion of process to secure public input outside of Commission Meetings and FAQ's - P. Janssen advised the Commission that this item will be on the agenda until the end.

Continued discussion of design of survey to solicit input from interested organizations on Charter issues – P. Janssen will start putting the survey together. He suggested that they identify groups that need to be surveyed. These groups may not necessarily be residents, but groups outside of the City that they need to interact with. This is a time to reach out and give the opportunity to give input and ask questions.

Presentation on City of Reading City Council Recommendations for the Charter Review Commission consideration - President Acosta gave the presentation on the City Council's recommendations for the Charter Review Commission's consideration. The details of the report are attached by reference and will be made part of the full report.

Recommendations:

- Define Council responsibilities along with the need for Council to address constituent services.
- Clarify the Oath of Office submission in regards to taking office for all positions
- Amend the Charter to allow various offices such as the City Clerk, the Mayor and the City Auditor to hire and manage their staff in accordance with the Positions Ordinance and the Budget.
- Correct overlap in duties of the Mayor and the Managing Director
- Provide Council with a role in the termination of the Managing Director, Solicitor and Department Directors.
- Allow for separate Solicitors for the Mayor and the Council to prevent any perceived

conflict of interest.

- Link the Position Ordinance and the Budget to provide clarity
- Allow the Budget and the Capital Program public hearings to be held on the same evening.
- Add Authority(ies) to Article X which addresses citizen participation on boards and commissions.
- Provide a defined process to evaluate or verify the signatures on petitions.
- Eliminate Section 1110 Recall, as recall in Pennsylvania is unconstitutional.

Continued discussion on presentation of City of Reading Administration recommendations for the Charter Review Commission consideration - Mayor Spencer continued the presentation on the Administration recommendations for the Charter Review Commission's consideration.

Addition considerations were:

- Filling of vacancies on Council.
- General Powers and duties (*more clearly define Council's powers and duties*)
- Citizen's right to be heard (*allow public comment before a vote and don't limit it*)
- Clarify procedures for submission of Ordinances
- Redefine/clarify the role of the City Clerk
- Deputy Mayor (*allow provision for Mayor to choose a Deputy Mayor*)
- Appointment of a Temporary Managing Director
- City Auditor

Discussion on Commission member Charter items for review - Tabled.

New Business – R. Frank-Vitale suggested inviting the members of the Charter Board in a few meetings.

- Motion by C. Geffken second by T. Anewalt and unanimously carried to approve the invoice 0100 for clerical services. D. Cituk will investigate the invoices for the Reading Eagle.

- M. Goodman-Hinnershitz asked if the presentation from the Charter Board would include the transition team. R. Frank-Vitale agreed it was a good idea. F. Dembowski asked for a timeline of presentations and discussions so ideas could be brought up at the appropriate time. P. Janssen recommended that each group should submit a format for their recommendations to make them easier to organize. There was concern that this would slow down the process too much. The Commission will discuss meeting weekly at their next meeting.

Public Comment - None to note.

Motion by D. Cituk second by T. Anewalt and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.