

City of Reading  
2013 Charter Review Commission  
November 6, 2013  
6:00-8:00 p.m. Christ Lutheran Church

The meeting of the 2013 Charter Review Commission was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at Christ Lutheran Church, 1301 Luzerne Street, Reading, PA. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairperson Rosemary Frank-Vitale.

Members of the Commission present were: Rosemary Frank-Vitale, Donna Reed, David M. Cituk, John Slifko, Vaughn D. Spencer, Thomas Anewalt, Carl Geffken, Michael H. Reese and Frank B. Denbowski.

Members not present were: Anne Sheehan, and Marcia Goodman-Hinnershitz.

Also present was Linda A. Kelleher, City Clerk, Eron Lloyd, Special Assn't to the Mayor, Charles Younger, Solicitor, and Paul Janssen, Charter Review Commission Facilitator.

Chairperson Frank-Vitale welcomed Councilwoman Reed and noted that she had been appointed earlier in the week to replace original member Randy Corcoran, who recently resigned.

**Minutes** - Motion by T. Anewalt second by M. Reese and unanimously carried to accept the minutes of October 30, 2013 with some typing corrections.

**Public Comments/Visitors** – R. Frank-Vitale explained the purpose of the Commission and for citizens to check the City website for additional information.

**Chris Wagner** noted he had lived in Reading for almost 35 years. He noted his support for the City residency requirement for employees. He further stated that he believes there are currently employees who are not residents and that if not rectified he would be filing a Charter Board complaint.

**Receive and Approve Bills:** The following invoices were received: Carol R. Lewis, \$100 for the October 30, 2013 meeting. Motion by M. Reese second by J. Slifko and unanimously carried to approve the bill.

**Old Business: Additional Survey Recipients:** The surveys from last week were mailed out. E. Lloyd is working on an electronic version to disseminate to all of the Boards and Commissions and reported that it should be available by Friday, November 8, 2013. Mr. Janssen noted that he had received one response to date but reiterated that the public outreach was important whether input was received or not.

**List of Categorized Charter Issues:** The commission received the preliminary report on charter issues identified to date, from J. Slifko and T. Anewalt (both attorney's with municipal experience) categorizing which of the issues can be handled by City Council Ordinance or by

formal charter amendment or either way. The commission reviewed the preliminary report until 7:40 PM and noted that they would continue review at the November 13, 2013 meeting.

T. Anewalt noted that representatives of the City of Bethlehem would also present to discuss the experience they have had utilizing separate City Council and Administration/City solicitors.

C. Geffkin also shared that he had researched special election costs to consider charter amendments outside of the normal primary and general election dates. He reported that a special election would cost \$2,000 per precinct or approximately \$50,000.

Mr. Janssen noted that once the report was formally completed it would be included in the minutes and in the Commission report. He further noted that the current schedule of the Commission included meetings on 11/13 and 11/20. Given the schedule he would prepare a ballot format for the issues to enable the members of the Commission to vote for the most important issues raised to date for the Commission to consider. This ballot could be presented on 11/13 and voted on before the 11/20 meeting at which time the Commission would begin the formal process of considering the most important issues identified through the ballot. At the December 4, 11, 18, 2013 meetings the final recommendations for Charter Amendments would be considered to enable the final report draft to be completed prior to the deadline of January 24, 2014.

**New Business** – None to note

**Public Comment** – No Comments

**Adjournment** - Motion by D. Reed second by D. Cituk and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Janssen  
Facilitator