

ALTOONA GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING MINUTES  
TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
JUNE 17, 2013

The organization meeting of the Altoona Government Study Commission was held at the City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers.

CALL TO ORDER – by Solicitor Clapper at 6:00 p.m.

SILENT MEDITATION- was then permitted.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – was taken.

ROLL CALL - taken by Solicitor Clapper – Present were Study Commission members: David Duncan; Heather Eckels; Richard Fiore Jr.; Richard Flarend; Beverly Green; Wayne Hippo and Robert Kutz. Joseph Weakland and City Solicitor Larry Clapper were also present.

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT - Robert Gutshall – asked that there be time allotted at the end of each of the Commission’s meetings to allow for additional public comment.

DISCUSSION OF APPLICABLE LAW – Solicitor Clapper gave a brief overview of the following major laws applicable to the Study Commission and its members: Council/Manager Optional Plan adopted by the City in 1987 together with the administrative code; the Home Rule/Optional Plan Law; Third Class City Code; Act 47; Sunshine Act and the Ethics Act.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS –

Upon motion of Robert Kutz, duly seconded by Beverly Green, Wayne Hippo was unanimously nominated and elected as Chair of the Study Commission. The Solicitor turned the meeting over to the new Chair. Upon tabulation by paper ballot, Richard Fiore was named Vice Chair of the Study Commission by a 4 to 3 vote over Robert Kutz.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MEETING TIMES/CONDUCT OF MEETINGS – Upon motion of Robert Kutz, seconded by Beverly Green, the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday at 7:00 p.m. and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. was unanimously established as the general meeting dates and time for the Study Commission for the remainder of 2013 to be held at the City of Altoona Training Facility & Council Chambers as follows: July 1 and July 16; August 5 and August 20; September 9 and September 24; October 7 and October 22; November 4 and November 19; and December 2 and December 17. It was also decided that the meetings should last no longer than 2 hours, the agenda should be received in advance of the meetings, Robert’s Rules would be the model for conduct of the meetings and public comment would also be permitted at the end of the Study Commission’s meetings if time permitted at the discretion of the Commission. David Duncan lead a discussion regarding airing the Commission’s meetings on the Public Access Channel, however, it was the consensus that airing the meetings on the Public Access Channel was too expensive. An alternative could be a web-cast of the meetings and Mr. Weakland was to look into the possibility of web-casting from the Council Training Facility and Council Chambers. Mr. Duncan will look for alternative locations which could accommodate web-casting.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS - It was the consensus of the Commission that the PA Department of Community and Economic Development and/or the PA Economy League be requested to appear at the Commission’s next meeting on July 1, 2013 to present an overview to the Commission of the Home Rule study process. It was also the consensus that a decision on issues to study and the time within which the same should take place would be decided at the Commission’s second meeting on July 16, 2013.

BUDGET OF THE COMMISSION - a proposed budget as prepared by the City was discussed by the Commission members. It was the consensus that \$550.00 be allocated for a stenographer/clerk and \$1,500.00 for expert witnesses and training of commission members; however adoption of the budget was put on hold pending potential web-cast expenditures. The Commission was informed that any budget that is finally established by the commission would have to go to City Council to approve the funding and that the City would supply the legal services of the City Solicitor; the meeting place; telephone; office supplies and advertising of the 2013 meetings. Mr. Weakland will ask if any of the current City staff would be willing

With no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by the Chair.

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Larry C. Clapper, temporary recording  
Secretary