

ALTOONA GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.
CITY OF ALTOONA TRAINING FACILITY & COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1320 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALTOONA, PA

CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 p.m. by Vice-Chairman Fiore

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL taken by City Clerk Linda Rickens Schellhammer; present were Study Commission Members: Dave Duncan (via phone), Heather Eckels, Richard Flarend, Bev Green, Robert Kutz and Vice-Chairman Richard Fiore Jr.; Chairman Wayne Hippo was absent

ALL PUBLIC COMMENT – offered by Vice-Chairman Fiore and none given

ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 3, 2014 MEETING MINUTES - Upon motion of Richard Flarend seconded by Bob Kutz all were in favor to adopt the March 3, 2014 meeting minutes; Chairman Hippo was absent

OUTLINE – ARTICLE III – MAYOR –

Solicitor Larry Clapper provided the Commission with a draft Charter and review of the language in Article III as follows: 3.01 A - language regarding the Mayor shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the City government will be added back in; B (3) - Facilitate the submission of an annual ... will be added to the beginning of the sentence; item 9 and 10 were added; under Article II in section 2.04; the date of February 15th is what is required by the tax law and the regular municipal election will take place every two years

Vice Chairman Fiore asked that Mayor and Council salary information be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting in April

Vice Chairman Fiore referenced the Charter of the City of Farrell and Article XI Administrative Departments stating it appears to show flexibility and the rules need to be established by future Councils and not in the Charter; the Easton Charter worked well for descriptions of Mayor and Council

Dave Duncan stated Farrell is short, simple and silent and he posed the question to the Commission of how will they be able to mix the Charters of Easton and Farrell

Richard Flarend stated Easton addresses the Controller, Solicitor and Finance and the rest is under their Administrative Code and it may be more silent than Farrell

Beverly Green stated provisions could always be added if needed

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Article IV of Farrell was reviewed and the question was brought forth regarding a City Treasurer or City Controller; the Commission asked to hear from Finance Director Omar Strohm and City Controller A.C. Stickel at a future meeting

It was suggested that all of departments be placed in one article

Bob Kutz asked for the last sentence of b in Article IV to be removed or to add the language – with the exception of Fire and Police or unless a department head is required to be licensed

Richard Fiore stated removing it gives more power

Heather Eckels stated removing it gives more power and it takes years to establish a level of expertise in the departments and on Council

Bob Kutz suggested the word temporarily and Larry Clapper stated he would add the word temporarily to Article XI Section 11.11 (b) ...With the consent of Council the Manager may temporarily serve as the head of ...

Under City Clerk the Commission agreed to add the language – shall be a notary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania within one year of date of hire under the City Clerk

Under City Solicitor Larry Clapper stated he would review the language and add the language to the first paragraph which reflectedat the direction of Council at the beginning of the sentence

The City Solicitor will draft f under Prohibitions as the Altoona City Water Authority appoints their board as officers and they are employees of the Water Authority

The Commission will review Mayor and Council salaries at the next meeting, review Solicitor Clapper's draft Charter as well as section on Names and Boundaries, Powers of the City and Ordinances and Resolutions

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT – none

MEDIA QUESTIONS - Media present included Bill Kibler, *Altoona Mirror*, Steve Willett, WRTA

ADJOURNMENT - by Vice-Chairman Fiore at 8:15 p.m.

Linda Rickens Schellhammer, City Clerk/Recording Secretary