

CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION MEETING
February 7, 2011

A meeting of the 2011 Charter Review Commission was held on Monday, February 7, 2011 at the Muscogee County School District's Administrative Building, Columbus Georgia. Mr. John Shinkle, Chairman, presiding.

PRESENT: Mr. Rick Alexander, Judge John Allen, Mr. W. J. Barrs, Mr. Mario Davis, Mr. Michael Eddings, Ms. Gladys Ford, Mr. Madden Hatcher, Jr., Mr. David Helmick, Mr. Julius Hunter, Mr. Bob Hydrick, Mr. D. L. Moore, Ms. Mary Sue Polleys, Ms. Brinkley Pound, Mr. Ben Richardson, Mr. John J. Rodgers, Mr. Alton Russell, Mr. Tracy Sayers, Mr. John Shinkle, Ms. Melanie Slaton, Ms. Gloria Strode, Ms. Audrey Tillman, Mr. Jorge Vega, Mr. Sam Wellborn, Mr. Brad Williams and Mr. John Woodward.

ABSENT: No one was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Teresa Tomlinson, Assistant City Attorney Jaimie DeLoach, Clerk of Council Tiny B. Washington, Shondell Duncan, Ms. Tameka Colbert, Secretary and members of the media were present as well.

This meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ms. Brinkley Pound expressed that she was unable to review the January 18, 2011 minutes due to her inability to access them by email, therefore the approval of the minutes was delayed.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR: Chairman Shinkle asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. At this time Mr. David Helmick nominated Judge John Allen. With no other nominations Mr. David Helmick made a motion that Judge John Allen serve as Vice Chairman of the Charter Review Commission. Seconded by Jorge Vega and carried unanimously by those 25 members of the Commission who were present for this meeting.

MEETING LOCATION: Mayor Teresa Tomlinson informed the Commission that the public as well as a number of Councilors has requested that the Charter Review Commission meetings be televised. She explained that there are certain locations that are unable to provide accommodations for the equipment that is needed to televise the meetings. She then recommended that the Government Center's Ground Floor Conference Room or the School District's Administrative Building be used in order to televise each meeting. She explained that the meetings would not be live on CCG-TV but would be taped and shown at a later time. Mayor Tomlinson requested that Clerk of Council Tiny Washington contact Mr. Michael King in order to coordinate with him and his staff to ensure that they are present at each meeting.

Judge John Allen asked if there were any concerns raised regarding the space needed for citizens to attend.

Chairman Shinkle said we are all aware that the public is welcome to the meetings and we would like to encourage them to come. He then asked Clerk of Council Washington if the reserved room at the Columbus Public Library would be large enough to accommodate citizens who may be interested in attending the meetings.

Clerk of Council Washington said yes, the room that has been reserved would be large enough to accommodate citizens who may be interested in attending the meetings.

WEB COMMUNICATIONS: At this time, Ms. Shondell Duncan came forward and provided a brief presentation regarding the Charter Review Commission's website. She also advised that each Commissioner was issued a CCG email address. At this time she addressed all questions and concerns as it relates to the Commissioners accessing their CCG email.

Chairman Shinkle asked Assistant City Attorney Jaimie DeLoach if she would be the gatekeeper of the emails received from citizens.

Assistant City Attorney Jaimie DeLoach said that she would be the gatekeeper of all concerns and comments of the citizens as they are placed on the website. She explained that the City Attorneys Office has previously received a number of emails, which have been divided according to the article that it pertains to, which would ensure organization.

ORGANIZATION OF SUB-COMMITTEES: Chairman Shinkle directed the Commission's attention to the proposed list of sub-committees that was attached to the agenda. He pointed out that the previous Charter Review Commission did not form subcommittees; they discussed each article in mass with the entire Commission. He indicated that there was a lack of progress due to all twenty-five members expressing their opinions regarding each article. He then opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Jorge Vega said the Commission was appointed to review the entire Charter and make recommendations. He said once the Commission is divided into sub-committees, the Commissioners are limited to the information that is discussed in the sub-committee meetings. He expressed his desire to be knowledgeable of the opinions of his co-members as well as the issues that are discussed in the various sub-committee meetings.

Mr. David Helmick concurred with the arrangement of the sub-committees with the assumption that all members would be able to attend any sub-committee meeting that they choose. He pointed out that all minutes would be available for review, which would enable the Commission to discuss all topics collectively.

Chairman Shinkle said if it were agreed upon to implement the sub-committees, they would be published. He said he has requested that Assistant City Attorney Jaimie DeLoach compose a letter addressing all department heads, which operate out of the

Charter, providing them with a list of sub-committees and chairpersons of the sub-committees. This would allow the department head to become involved, as well as bring issues to the sub-committees. He reiterated that all sub-committee meetings would be open to any Commissioner interested in the article, which is being discussed.

Assistant City Attorney DeLoach asked if Commissioners would be allowed to vote at sub-committee meetings if they are not a part of that particular sub-committee.

Chairman Shinkle responded by saying, any member of the Commission who is in attendance of a sub-committee meeting would be allowed to cast their vote.

After several minutes of discussion concerning this matter, with several Commissioners expressing their views and ideas Mr. Sam Wellborn made a motion that the Commission be allowed to divide into sub-committees. Seconded by Ms. Mary Sue Polleys and carried by a vote of 21 to 4 with Mr. Michael Eddings, Mr. Ben Richardson, Ms. Melanie Slaton and Mr. Jorge Vega voting no.

At this time Chairman Shinkle advised that he had spoken with each person suggested as active chairman of each sub-committee and each person has accepted the charge to do so. He said at the last meeting he advised members of the Commission to notify him if they would like to be involved in a particular sub-committee. He said he received emails from two persons suggesting the articles they would like to work with.

Mr. Alton Russell made a motion to approve the proposed sub-committee break down and the grouping of the articles as outlined by Chairman John Shinkle. Seconded by Mr. David Helmick and carried with a vote of 24 to 1 with Mr. Jorge Vega voting no.

Mr. Jorge Vega expressed his desire to serve on other sub-committees and asked Chairman Shinkle would it be permissible.

Chairman Shinkle responded by saying it would not be a problem unless the situation gets out of hand to where all committee members want to serve on one committee. He advised that members who would like to be added to a particular subcommittee should inform him and he would speak with the chairman of that particular sub-committee to ensure that members who are interested would be added to that sub-committee.

Ms. Mary Sue Polleys made a motion that anyone who wants to serve on any of the listed sub-committees would be allowed to do so. Seconded by Mr. Michael Eddings and carried unanimously by those 25 Commission members present for this meeting.

Mr. David Helmick suggested that rules and procedures be established to ensure organization of operation.

Chairman Shinkle suggested that Mr. Helmick establish a slate of rules and procedures.

Chairman Shinkle requested that the first sub-committee report back to the Commission within a time frame of 60-90 days. He said he would like to set a schedule for each sub-committee to report its findings to the full Commission.

Mr. Bob Hydrick suggested that each sub-committee meet every month as well as report back to the Commission during the monthly meetings.

Chairman Shinkle asked the Commission if they were in agreement with the idea. With there being no opposing Commissioners, he advised that each committee would meet every month and report to the Commission each month to give an update on issues discussed, with a target of 60-90 days that each sub-committee report back with a full presentation.

Assistant City Attorney Jaimie DeLoach asked Chairman Shinkle if each sub-committee would appoint a secretary to transcribe minutes.

Chairman Shinkle directed each sub-committee chairman to appoint someone to serve as secretary.

With there being no further business to discuss, this meeting adjourned at 4:24p.m.

Tameka Colbert, Secretary