

**City of Plainfield, New Jersey  
Charter Study Commission  
Minutes of Meeting of Thursday, July 18, 2013, 7:30 p.m., Plainfield City Hall Library**

**Call to Order:** Mr. Smiley called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Salute to the Flag:** The Commissioners recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**The Open Public Meeting Act Compliance Statement:** Ms. Criscione announced that the Notice Requirement provided for in the Open Public Meeting Law had been satisfied. Notice was properly given, amended notice having been transmitted to the Courier-News and the Star-Ledger on 5/13/13, as well as posting on the City website and on the City Clerk's bulletin board.

**Roll Call:** Mr. Smiley took roll call. Secretary Mary Burgwinkle, Vice Chair John Stewart, Chair Rick Smiley and Treasurer Jeanette Criscione were present for the roll call. Assistant Secretary Marie Davis was not able to attend the meeting in person, but participated in the deliberations portion of the meeting by teleconference.

**Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting of July 11, 2013 were approved in a unanimous vote.

**Correspondence to Commission:** Ms. Burgwinkle reported receiving an email from Mr. Robert Edwards on Friday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. She was not working on Charter Study emails over the weekend, and did not get back to him until Monday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, after he had filed an OPRA request with the City Clerk for a recording of the 7/11 meeting. Ms. Burgwinkle copied the meeting recording onto two CDs, one for the City Clerk and one for Mr. Edwards and dropped them off at City Hall on Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. On Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, the City Clerk advised that Mr. Edwards had filed an amended OPRA request, requesting copies of the documents that the Commissioners had used during the deliberations and voting at the 7/11 meeting. On behalf of the Commission, Ms. Burgwinkle responded, requesting an "Intra-agency deliberative materials" exception to production. Ms. Burgwinkle noted that the Commission was concerned about publication in the community of a draft documents containing suggested charter changes that are not final, were presented to encourage discussion and which contained references to legal and other advice received by the Commission. The exception was asserted to avoid misinformation circulating in the community. The final meeting of CSC is scheduled for 8/1, and any final deliberation and editing will take place at that meeting. The Final Report, containing the final suggested changes will be released to the public promptly after that and in no event later than 8/6.

**Treasurer Report:** No report

**New Business:**

**-Commissioner deliberation**

The Commissioners continued deliberations at this point. The Commissioners took their first vote at the 6/20/13 meeting and unanimously voted to request City Council to petition the legislature for amendments to the special charter. At the 6/27/13 meeting, the three commissioners who were present went through the charter sections previously identified for possible amendment without voting. At the 7/11 meetings, voting on sections drafted by Ms. Burgwinkle continued. At this meeting, the Commissioners voted on changes to a number of sections and reserved the right to continue deliberations at the final meeting on 8/1.

**Announce date and time of next and final meeting:** Thursday, 8/1/2013 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall Planning Conference Room.

**Public Participation:** Mr. Robert Edwards asked a question about the date of the next meeting and was told that the meeting was on 8/1/13.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:45.

A Full Length Recorded Copy of this Meeting is available by contacting the Commission at [plainfieldcsc.blogspot.com](http://plainfieldcsc.blogspot.com)