

**City of Plainfield, New Jersey
Charter Study Commission
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday, July 11, 2013, 7:30 p.m.
Plainfield City Hall Library**

Call to Order: Mr. Smiley called the meeting to order at 7:35 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.

Public Forum: Ms. Criscione prepared a slide presentation for the Public Forum portion of the meeting. She led the Commissioners and the public in attendance in a review of the activities of the Commission to date. Slides were devoted to formation of the Commission and the statutory duties of the Commission. Responses to the substantive questions asked of elected and appointed officials were tabulated and presented in graph form, and the Commission's next steps were reviewed in general. Members of the public asked questions during and after the presentation. A PDF of the slide presentation can be viewed or downloaded from the City Clerk's website.

Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting of June 27, 2013 were approved in a unanimous vote with no dissents or abstentions.

Correspondence to Commission: Mrs. Burgwinkle reported receiving an email from Corporation Counsel David Minchello suggesting that the Commission get a full legal review of the Final Report before releasing it to the public. The Commissioners unanimously agreed to decline the request. Charter Study Commissions are made up of citizens who typically write their own reports and take advantage of review by Rutgers Center for Government Services, which this Commission intends to do. The Commissioners have been very cost conscious about doing the report and do not wish to incur the expense of a legal review. Ms. Burgwinkle respond to Mr. Minchello, who has been helpful to the Commission when presented with questions.

Treasurer Report: No report

New Business:

-Commissioner deliberation

The Commissioners continued deliberations after the Public Forum portion of the meeting. 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 this meeting, voting on changes to the sections drafted by Ms. Burgwinkle commenced. The Commissioners voted on changes to many sections, and set aside sections where agreement could not be reached easily for the meeting scheduled for 7/18/13. Deliberations will be continued at the 7/18/13 meeting.

Announce date and time of next meeting: Thursday, 7/18/2013 at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall Planning Conference Room.

Public Participation: The members of the community who attended were allowed to participate during the meeting.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

A Full Length Recorded Copy of this Meeting is available by contacting the Charter Commissioners at <http://plainfieldcsc.blogspot.com/>.