

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

June 25, 2007

7:00 p.m.

In attendance: Jim Vike, Woody Van Sciver, Bill Macaleer, Jerry McGlone

A motion was made by Woody Van Sciver, seconded by Bill Macaleer and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the meeting held on May 29, 2007.

Henry Briggs is expected to have a recommendation for selection of Consultant or Attorney to answer legal questions at the next meeting.

Act 24 information was distributed.

The Commission members agreed that discussions and decisions from prior meetings directed the commission toward consideration of possible modifications to components of the existing Borough code rather than a comprehensive and dramatic change of government form. The members agreed to compile a list of possible modifications that have been discussed at prior meeting and to clarify the status of each item.

Areas of prior discussion with (status updates):

- 1) term limits
 - a) council members
 - i. (prior commission majority agreement on two consecutive term limits, with no life limits)
 - b) mayor
 - i. (prior commission unanimous agreement on two consecutive term limits, with no life limits)
 - c) council leadership positions
 - i. (no limits necessary due to term limits)
- 2) size of council
 - i. (prior unanimous commission agreement that 7 members is appropriate)
- 3) tax structure
 - i. (further discussion necessary)
 - ii. (the commission members agreed to review, discuss and decide on various proposals addressing alternatives to property tax at subsequent meetings)
- 4) recall provisions for Council members
 - i. (legal advice indicates that this item is unconstitutional in PA)
- 5) minority party representation on Council
 - i. (further discussion necessary)
 - ii. (legal and functional advice needed)

- 6) ward representation
 - i. (the commission unanimously agreed not to pursue a ward-type representation system)
- 7) tax collector status as an elected row officer
 - i. (further discussion necessary)
- 8) contract bidding limitations
 - i. (further discussion necessary)
 - ii. (legal advice needed regarding allowable limitations)
- 9) civil service status and procedures
 - i. (further discussion necessary)
 - ii. (legal advice needed)
- 10) ballot initiatives and referenda
 - i. (further discussion necessary)

The commission members discussed the Government Study Commission timeline and agreed that future meetings should be dedicated to discussing and decisions regarding the remaining outstanding items.

Items for the agenda of the next meeting:

- 1) legal counsel
- 2) tax collector issue
- 3) Civil Service
- 4) Tax structure proposals

A motion was made by Woody Van Sciver, seconded by Bill Macaleer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores Magee