

MINUTES

Charter Advisory Commission February 1, 1990

A meeting of the Charter Advisory Commission was held with the following Commission members in attendance: P.K. Miller; Nancy George; Thomas Coolidge; Robert Addams; and Gilmore Seavers. Also in attendance were: Fredrick Bean, Assistant Borough Manager; and Robert L. Owens, Borough Councilman.

The meeting began with a general discussion on the purpose of the Charter Advisory Commission. Fred Bean explained Council's direction with this Commission. Robert Addams questioned the benefit of Home Rule. Gilmore Seavers stated that Carlisle has been fortunate to have effective and responsible leadership and an effective local government structure over the years. Thomas Coolidge asked what was being asked of the Commission specifically, and how many forms of local government should be reviewed. Gilmore Seavers stated that a public hearing might be in order with experts from DCA in attendance. P.K. Miller noted that State College is a Home Rule model for Boroughs in Pennsylvania. Nancy George questioned the advantages of Home Rule. Robert Addams stated we should not go through this unless significant changes would be made. P.K. Miller stated he feels the present form of government has done very well for Carlisle.

At that point the Commission felt leadership was needed. P.K. Miller made a motion, seconded by Thomas Coolidge, to elect Gilmore Seavers as Chairman of the Charter Advisory Commission. The motion passed unanimously. Gilmore Seavers stated he respects this Commission and the charge very strongly and would work to benefit the citizens of Carlisle.

P.K. Miller stated the Commission needs to know the concerns of Borough Council with the current form of Borough government. Also, Gilmore Seavers questioned if any municipality has abandoned Home Rule or was having problems with Home Rule. Nancy George would like to know the pros and cons of Home Rule. Thomas Coolidge asked if Home Rule has ever been voted down in a municipality or if a municipality ever decided not to study it.

Gilmore Seavers stated we should hold a public hearing on April 5th and have it well publicized. Also he will contact DCA to have individuals present to inform the public on the pros and cons of Home Rule. In addition, Fred Bean will write a memo to Council, the Mayor, and the Manager requesting their concerns with the present form of government. After this information is gathered, another meeting will be held in May to discuss the findings.

Being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.