

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

BOROUGH OF CARLISLE

June 2014

Issue No. 8

Welcome to the Borough of Carlisle Government Study Commission Newsletter. The commission will use this monthly newsletter to keep citizens informed about the progress of the commission as well as the schedule for key dates and events. More detailed information on the government study commission process can be found [here](#) on the Borough of Carlisle web site.

Please e-mail CarlislePaHR@gmail.com to be added to the e-mail distribution list.

Commission Members

Ken Womack, Chairman; David Sheridan, Vice Chairman; Robert Winston, Secretary/Treasurer; Bill Berwick; Stephen Hughes; Bert Lennon; John Sacrison; Phil Shevlin and Blake Wilson

Public Hearing

The commission conducted a public hearing for Monday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in Borough Hall to allow citizens an opportunity to comment on an [initial draft charter](#). The initial draft charter was the result of over nine months of individual and group research, committee and commission meetings and public hearings. At this hearing, the commission highlighted seven key items proposed in the new charter:

1. Abolishes the office of elected tax collector and directs council to determine best method of collecting taxes from a list of available options.
2. Maintains same power of taxation and tax rates as the current Borough Code.
3. Establishes seven member council, elected at large, with a Mayor presiding.
4. Enacts term limits for the offices of mayor and council members.
5. All department heads, including the Chief of Police, to report to the Borough Manager.
6. Directs the council to enact an administrative code with specific guidance on personnel code, contracting and procurement and a code of ethics.
7. Enables increased citizen participation by establishing procedures for initiative and referendum.

In addition, citizens were provided with a [detailed summary of the draft charter](#). The public commented on a number of issues during the public opinion, particularly the new role for the mayor, the election of council and mayor at large, term limits, and the threshold limits necessary for initiative and referendum. The commission will review the comments provided and will continue to revise and refine the charter. The commission anticipates another public hearing following the preparation of a second draft.

Meeting Schedule

The commission's next meeting will be on July 22, 2014.

Public Involvement

The government study commission continues to seek public input and comments on the government study commission process. Please contact the commission via e-mail at CarlislePaHR@gmail.com with

your comments and suggestions. You can also find the commission on Facebook at Carlisle Home Rule Study Commission. The commission strongly encourages the public to attend its meetings.

Commission Member Spotlight: Bill Berwick

Bill Berwick graduated from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia with a degree in Pharmacy. He was assigned to Madigan Army Hospital Pharmacy during Vietnam. After discharge, he held numerous management positions on both coasts in manufacturing, sales, and marketing. In mid-career, after becoming a single parent, he traded suit and tie for a white jacket and was engaged in a community pharmacy until retirement. Currently, he volunteers for habitat for humanity, meals on wheels, and the Cumberland County Honor Guard.