

Government Study Commission
January 28, 2014
Carlisle Borough Hall
Meeting Minutes

Commission members in attendance: Dave Sheridan, Bert Lennon, Philip Shevlin, John Sacrison, Robert Winston, Stephen Hughes and Ken Womack.

Not in attendance at the meeting: William Berwick

1. Call to Order

Ken Womack called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

2. Approve minutes

The January 7, 2014 minutes were approved.

3. Public Comment

Ken Womack explained that upcoming subcommittee reports are the basis for discussion by the commission and to educate the commission on their findings and are not being formally approved by the commission at this time. Mr. Womack requested citizens in attendance let the commission discuss each report in its entirety and withhold public comment until the designated time on the agenda.

Roger Spitz, 421 E. North Street, Carlisle, Pennsylvania stated there should be equal representation at the north end of town in a council election.

Bert Lennon commented the current ward divisions in Carlisle were adopted in 1940. If wards were reapportioned, as they would have to be if elections by ward were approved, new wards would probably be different from those today.

4. Old Business

a) Charter Development Committee

- Dave Sheridan developed a shell home rule charter document for the commission to use to build the charter over the next few months. He will make updates when the commission approves draft proposals for the charter.

b) Elections Committee

- Bert Lennon reported the current ward structure in the Borough was pre 1940s

c) Citizen Participations Committee

- The committee will continue its research and provide specifics (voter thresholds and timelines) for initiative and referendum. .

d) Tax Collection Committee

- No Update at this time

e) Miscellaneous Committee

- The committee will put together a matrix of state requirements for contracting and procedures tailored to the needs of the borough.

f) Government Structure Committee

- Bob Winston presented a preliminary report of a proposed structure for Borough council.
- The commission discussed language needed in the charter to clarify vacancy issues created during an election as well as other issues. The committee will present another report on February 18th.

5. New Business

Stephen Hughes reported that the Luzerne County website only has information on the transition plan for their home rule charter.

6. Public Comment

Wayne Ulsh, North West Street Carlisle, Pennsylvania commented that a partial term should not be counted when calculating terms completed of an elected official.

Connie Bires, 257 Arch Street, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, inquired how the voted would be tallied if an official recused themselves and there is a tie vote.

Ken Womack stated a tie vote maintains the status quo and the motion fails.

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Stone,
Borough Secretary