

**Government Study Commission  
March 10, 2015  
Borough Hall  
Meeting Minutes**

Commission Members in Attendance: Ken Womack, John Sacrison, Blake Wilson, Bob Winston, Phil Shevlin, Stephen Hughes, Bill Berwick and Secretary Joyce Stone.

1. Call to order

Ken Womack called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. Approval of minutes

The minutes from the February 24, 2015 meeting were approved.

3. Public comment

None

4. Old Business

- Reviewed the Summary of the Final Report. This document will be used by the candidates during their election campaign as well as sent out as a bulk mailing to Borough Citizens, with a deliver date on May 1, 2015.
- Reviewed the insert to be published by the Guide. Stephen Hughes will obtain a confirmation on the cost of the insert. The insert will be inserted into the May 12<sup>th</sup> edition.

5. New Business

- Commissioners provided an update on a meeting that was held with the Editorial Staff at the Sentinel. The discussion included an overview of Home Rule, along with the main issues in the charter.
- Ken Womack is waiting on a response from a letter he sent to the Patriot News asking to speak to them about Home Rule.
- Education Campaign Update
  - Blake Wilson is working on scheduling a public meeting at Dickinson College.
  - Assignments were made to the existing schedule of meetings that will be held with area clubs and organizations to discuss Home Rule.
- Discussed purchasing Home Rule yard signs to post prior to the elections. John Sacrison will look into websites that sell yard signs.

- The Commission updated an address list of Neighborhood and other various organizations to be used for sending letters asking for the opportunity to speak at their meetings about Home Rule.
- There was discussion on encouraging voters registered “no affiliation” to come out and vote on the May 19<sup>th</sup> primary. This information will be conveyed through the newspaper ads.
- Mr. Roger Spitz presented a letter that he has asked to have read at the next Borough Council meeting. The letter is attached to the minutes.
- Discussed the documentation to be used for the bulk mailer. Joyce Stone will prepare the bulk mailing document for the printer.
- A public hearing was scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Borough Hall at 7:00 PM
- The Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

6. Public Comment

7. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Stone,  
Borough Secretary

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February 25, 2015

Dear Council Member Heath:

After 10 months of hard work by the home rule commission members, and talking to many citizens in Carlisle about home rule, I was shocked to find out the people's lack of understanding about home rule and what it will stand for. Carlisle is about to embark on a historic vote. It is the responsibility of our government to keep their people informed about this issue or any issue that will change the way Carlisle is governed. The silence of the council members and mayor is very disappointing. They should have been keeping their constituents up to date over the last 10 months on the progress of home rule. It doesn't matter if the council member or mayor is pro or con, they should at least keep the people informed. Public hearings were held by the commission, but with very poor attendance, and as most of you know by past council meetings that this is very discouraging.

At the last commission meeting Feb.24, 2015 the commission members were trying very hard on how to educate the public on home rule. But with the funds they had available made their effort very difficult. The commission shouldn't have to struggle with this alone, when our government should take the lead on this issue. With the primary approaching very soon, the council should do much more to help their people understand. Council members have every right to explain everything they can about home rule to the citizens of Carlisle, whether they are pro or con as long as they explain their choice. But their silence doesn't help anyone.

There is too much false information being passed around that needs to be corrected. We could all just sit back and let this vote happen without anyone knowing what they are voting for. That would be very inconsiderate and disrespectful to the voters of Carlisle and to the 9 commission members who put so much dedicated effort and long hours into writing this charter. I would expect the council members to accept their responsibility and keep the citizens informed on this history making primary vote. Also I would like this letter read to all council members and mayor at the next regular council meeting. It is not my intention to offend anyone but only to have the public informed. I also would like this letter placed within the council minutes'. Should anyone need clarification of what I am saying, I will gladly make time to explain. Thank you.

I remain

Respectfully yours

Roger Spitz



Carlisle Borough