

CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
February 28, 2007

Present: Commissioners: Willie Brooks, George Brown, Jr., Marsha Campbell, Sylvia Cox, Janis Fullilove, Sharon Webb, Myron Lowery

City of Memphis/Law Division: Steve Townsdin, Senior Assistant City Attorney

Absent: Berneta Miles, Administrative Assistant to Sara Hall, City Attorney and Jennifer Falkok, Compliance Attorney/Inter-governmental Relations

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner George Brown, Jr. with prayer by Commissioner Sharon Webb.

Commissioner Brown advised that the representatives from MLGW asked to postpone their appearance at the Feb. 28th meeting and appear before the Charter Commission at a later time. Commissioner Fullilove advised that Mayor Herenton would not be able to attend the meeting today and would attend at a later time. Commissioner Brown stated that the Charter Commission had provided ample opportunities for stake-holders to appear before the Commission and that the Commission would move to its next phase - Public Forums.

The first public form is scheduled for March 21, 2007. The Commission will follow the procedures used by the City Council with some deviations. He was not sure if Jenni was asked to refine the procedures. [*There is no note to this reference in the February 7, 2007 minutes.*] Commissioner Brown stated that at an appropriate time, he would share/discuss with the Commission what should be done after the public forums. Commissioner Fullilove suggested a press conference to inform the public about the upcoming forums.

Commissioner Brown noted the procedures that were listed on the minutes of the February 7, 2007 meeting. He suggested to add security and a means of recording to the list. The list from the Feb 7, 2007 meeting is as follows:

- Number of people - 15 to 25
- Call in to a certain number, provide their name, and they will be put on the agenda to speak
- Ability to add walk-ins to the list
- Sign-in sheet
- 1-1/2 hour meeting; 2 mins to speak
- No comments from Commissioners
- Point of order
- Respond to citizens regarding issues presented

- Citizens to place comments in writing
- Copy of guidelines/rules for speaking (Sylvia to provide)

Commissioner Lowery said that he would be responsible for getting a volunteer with knowledge of how to perform the duties and make sure that the forum is recorded. Commissioner Brown asked that the volunteer(s) be available to direct those in attendance. Commissioner Lowery said that he would include that as a duty for the volunteer(s). Commissioner Lowery said that the City Council had offered the services of their staff and he would see if anyone would be available. Commissioner Lowery will also be responsible for all the logistics for the public forums. Commissioner Cox will assist in making sure everything is in order for the public forums.

A discussion began on notification of public forums to the public. Commissioner Lowery agreed with a previous suggestion from Commissioner Fullilove that the Charter Commission should have a press conference (with all members) to notify the public of the upcoming forums. The suggested date/time is March 12, 2007 at 1 p.m. This date would also allow ample time to make sure everything is running smoothly with the website.

Commissioner Brown is of the opinion that the press conference for the public forum should be held at a site other than City Hall so that there is no perception of collusion between the Charter Commission and City Hall. Commissioner Fullilove is of the opinion that having the press conference at/in front of a government entity would allow the public to see that the Commission is about making government better. Commissioner Cox asked if anyone had any suggestions for other venues. Commissioner Webb stated that a restaurant owner had told her that their facility was available for any press conferences. Commissioner Lowery reinforced the suitability for the facility. Commissioner Brooks made the motion to have the press conference at City Hall, Hall of Mayors with Commissioner Fullilove providing the second. There was no discussion and the motion was approved. Commissioner Lowery will check and make sure the facility is available.

Commissioner Brown asked to form a committee of two Commissioners and himself to draft a press release. Commissioners Fullilove and Brown volunteered to be a part of this committee.

A discussion began on implementation of the public forums. Commissioner Brown said that by the end of April, everyone would have been provided an opportunity to come before the Commission, and submit in writing their suggestions/requests. During the month of May, the time allotted for the meetings would be longer in order to sort, digest, and discuss the information provided through the public forums. By the end of June, this information would then be provided to other sources for research and possible drafting with a possible completion date of September 2007 for the Commission's review.

Commissioner Lowery stated that he has received several requests/concerns as to when a public forum would be held in east Memphis. He recounted the fact that the Central Library was as far east as the public forums would be held and he did not want any citizen to feel that we had left them out of the process. Commissioner Brown reminded the Commissioners that other

options (other than the public forums) were available for them to give their requests/suggestions to the Commission and that he is of the opinion that the Commission was doing a good job of making itself accessible to the public. Commissioner Brown also stated that the Commission does have certain time restraints - known and unknown. When the Charter Commission begins its next phase of public forums, it [the Commission] should make a point of visiting areas/locations other than those chosen in phase one of the process.

Commissioner Brown began a discussion on a proposed budget for the Charter Commission. This task was assigned to Commissioner Lowery. Commissioner Lowery ask the Commissioners to think about what would be needed and all concerns will be reviewed and a budget, that is approved by the Charter Commission, will be presented to the City Council. Commissioner Brooks was concerned about the time factor and asked if the Charter Commission would have to meet before the end of the scheduled public forums. [The proposed budget is to be presented within 45 days.] Commissioner Brown stated that would depend on Commissioner Lowery's findings and reminded the Commissioners that this budget is only for expenses occurred for the Charter Commission's official business. There was also an open discussion regarding other expenditures, e.g. gas/travel allowance.

There was an open discussion on whether those stake-holders who had not been before the Commission would be rescheduled. Commissioner Lowery motioned that the discussion be tabled until after or during the April 18th meeting. Commissioner Brown asked for a second. Commissioner Webb seconded the motion. The vote was 5-2 to table the discussion: Yes/Commissioners Lowery, Brown, Campbell, Webb, Cox; No/Commissioner Brooks and Fullilove.

Commissioner Campbell asked for documentation that provide the guidelines for the Charter Commission members to be elected and non-paid. She wanted the information so that she could provide an informative answer to those citizens who had inquired about the position and its duties. Commissioner Lowery said that he would provide that information to Commissioner Campbell.

The Charter Commission will meet for lunch prior to the press conference on March 12. Commissioner Lowery will check on the availability of rooms, lunch, and notify Commissioners of the location. Commissioner Brown suggested that future dates for meetings would also be discussed.

Meeting adjourned.