

CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
May 2, 2007

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

City of Memphis/Law Division: Jennifer Falkok/Compliance Attorney/Inter-governmental Relations, Berneta Miles/Administrative Assistant, Zayid Saleem/Law Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner George Brown, Jr. with prayer by Commissioner Sharon Webb. The minutes were approved for the meeting on February 28, 2007.

Commissioner Brown began the meeting with an open discussion regarding the public forums. The following comments were made:

Sylvia Cox

§ Turnout was not as expected, Central Library and Whitehaven had best gathering. She will provide a consolidated report of the public forums. Most prevalent comments were on MLGW, term limits, and ethics. Would like for the second round of meetings [with the public] to occur at locations other than those used in the first round of public forums.

Janice Fullilove

§ Wants to reschedule the Mayor to meet with the Charter Commission. She wants the Charter Commission to visit additional sites for a public forum. She wants to Charter Commission to provide a forum where the public can ask the Commission questions.

Willie Brooks

§ Concerned about the attendance by the public and coverage by the media. He also wants the Commission to extend the public forums to other areas to get more input from the community.

Marsha Campbell

§ Agrees with the previous comments and would also like a public forum to inform them about MGLW and its operations, e.g. sale - can it be sold.

Sharon Webb

§ Feels good about the Charter Commission, its role and what it has done to inform the public. May need to communicate better to the public as to how the public forums work. She also agrees that we need to meet at other locations.

Commission Brown began an open discussion on where the Charter Commission is headed. The Commissioners have heard from the public and the most common areas for discussion were term limits, ethics and MLGW. It will be the Commission's duty to review all comments given, have an open discussion, decide what will/will not be placed on the ballot, and present it to the citizens. He proposed to have MTAS and others to prepare proposed/preliminary positions on the areas of concern. These proposed/preliminary positions will better assist the Charter Commission in determining what should be placed on the ballot. A proposed time-frame is as follows:

- § Fall 2007 - Proposals complete
- § First Quarter 2008 - Refine proposals and present to citizens at public forum
- § Between now and September prepare drafts of proposals

Commissioner Brooks asked that the Commissioner conduct two more public forums. Commissioner Brooks reminded the Commission that there were 'grey' areas of concern {within the City Charter} that they must decide as to whether or not any changes would be made.

Commissioner Fullilove also inquired about other stakeholders who had not been before the Charter Commission. Commissioner Brown stated that he is in contact with the head of the union for Fire Services and their attorney; and, they will provide recommendations to the Charter Commission. He reaffirmed to the Commissioners that anyone can provide a written recommendation to the Charter Commission. The Commissioners will work on a list of recommendations at the next meeting.

Commissioner Brown introduced Zayid Saleem, Law Clerk/Law Division, who will provide legal assistance to the Charter Commission.

Commissioner Brown stated that he had spoken with Commissioner Lowery regarding a budget for the Charter Commission. He also stated that with the Commission's approval, he will begin work on term limits, ethics, and MLGW. The list will be expanded at the next meeting.

Commissioner Brown continued the discussion on additional public forums. Commission Brooks asked that these additional forums be held within the next sixty (60) days. Commissioner Cox agreed that there may be a perception that the Charter Commission is not reaching all of the districts. Commissioner Brown reminded the Commissioners that they had met and agreed upon the terms/dates/conditions of the public forums and that was fulfilled; however, the vote of the Commissioners rules. Commissioner Brown entertained a motion on the additional public forums. Commission Brooks motioned that the Charter Commission conduct two (2) townhall meetings within the next sixty (6) days for the purpose of selecting information from the voters. Commissioner Cox seconded the motion. The vote is YES=5 and NO=1. [*Commissioner Lowery was absent at the vote.*]

A discussion began regarding the location of the additional public forums. Commissioner Webb asked if the Commissioners [as a body] had to be present in the different locations/district to solicit information. Commissioner Webb stated that the Commissioners should go as a group to show unity. The Commissioners voted to have the next meeting on May 23, 2007. Berneta Miles called [during this meeting] and confirmed that Conference Room A is available on May 23. Other subject areas will be discussed in addition to dates/locations for the additional public forums.

Commissioner Fullilove motioned to invite Mayor Herenton to speak to the Charter Commission. Commissioner Campbell seconded. Commissioner Brown asked that the motioned be amended to invite Mayor Herenton to appear on May 23, 2007. Commissioner Lowery asked if anyone would object to inviting Joseph Lee to the May 23rd meeting. Commissioner Fullilove stated that he would be invited at a different time and Commissioner Lowery withdrew his question. Commissioner Fullilove amended her motion to invite Mayor Herenton to appear at the May 23rd meeting. The motion carried and Mayor Herenton will be invited to the May 23rd meeting.

Commissioner Brown stated that the Commission needed to decide on the support staff for the Charter Commission. Commissioner Lowery will assist Commissioner Brown with this task.

The meeting was adjourned.