

CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING
September 27, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner George Brown called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. The following members of the Board, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown, Jr., Sylvia Cox, and Myron Lowery.

Others in attendance include: Steve Townsdin, City of Memphis Senior Attorney; Bridgett Handy-Clay, City of Memphis, Open Record Coordinator; Professor Wirls, Rhodes College; Ricky Wilkins, the Law Offices of Ricky Wilkins; among others.

The meeting began with introductions from volunteers and a prayer lead by Commissioner Brooks.

MINUTES: Chairman Brown noted that the minutes from the Board's meeting of August 29, 2007 will be approved at the next Board meeting.

OPEN DISCUSSION: Chairman Brown noted that Commissioner Campbell, Fullilove, and Webb were not going to be in attendance. Next, he informed the Board that he, Ms. Falkof and Mr. Wilkins met prior to the board meeting and called on Mr. Wilkins to explain the services that his firm will provide. Mr. Wilkins explained that having knowledge of public concerns pertaining to the Charter and the Board's mission have been very helpful. He noted that in reviewing the minutes, term limits and ethics were two major topics of interest along with up-dating the City of Memphis Charter. Mr. Wilkins stated that the issues surrounding Memphis Light Gas & Water, Elections Run-offs and the Mayor's office were also of some concerns that may be in need of reviewing. He suggested that someone with his team be appointed to monitor the overall work done by lawyers collecting documents so that the Board is well informed. Mr. Wilkins views of the legal team are simply to do legal research on issues that may have legal implication as identified by the Charter Commission and he is the overseer of that effort.

Chairman Brown asked if there were any question or comments. Commissioner Brooks asked Mr. Wilkins would his staff be available to assist the Board with public communication and he replied yes. Chairman Brown stated that the Board's next step should be to schedule a presentation with the Memphis City Council to discuss term limits, elections run-offs and to get feed back. He suggested to Mr. Wilkins that he and his team review the documentation submitted by the public pertaining to the above item and advise them at the October 30th Board meeting.

Next, the Board discussed inviting Memphis Light Gas & Water Board of Directors to give an update on the issues surrounding MLGW. Chairman Brown asked Professor Wirls if he could review the City Charter and notify the board of the relationship between MLGW, the City of Memphis and the City Council by the next Board meeting. Professor Wirls replied yes. Chairman Brown stated once they have reviewed the information from

Mr. Wirls the Board can make a decision on whether to invite MLGW Board of Directors to give a presentation. Commissioner Lowery noted that the public does not want MLGW sold without a referendum. Chairman Brown stated that he would like Mr. Wilkins and his team to come prepared also on October the 11th to discuss their findings on MLGW concerning the Charter.

Upon closing, Commissioner Brooks asked about the Attorney General's ruling concerning term limits. Chairman Brown suggested the Board hold-off discussing the ruling until they have completed their research.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, Chairman Brown expressed his appreciation for everyone's help with the Charter Commission and stated that the next Board meeting is on October 11, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Bridgett Handy- Clay