

**CITY OF MEMPHIS, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
MEMPHIS CHARTER COMMISSION MEETING**

May 23, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner George Brown called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m. The following members of the Board, constituting a quorum, were present: Willie Brooks, George Brown, Jr., Sylvia Cox, Janis Fullilove, Myron Lowery and Sharon Webb.

Others in attendance include: Jennifer Falkok, City of Memphis, Compliance and Inter-governmental Relations Attorney, and Bernetta Miles, City of Memphis, Administrative Assistant; among others.

Chairman Brown opened the meeting by stating that Mayor Herenton will not be present at the meeting.

**MINUTES:** Chairman Brown noted that copies of the minutes from the Board's meeting of June 23, 2007 had been circulated prior to the meeting and asked if there were any changes or corrections. With no changes, the minutes were adopted as present.

**LOCATION:** Commissioner Cox explained that she had located two venues for the Board to host their additional public forums discussed at the last Board meeting. She stated that the Cordova branch library meeting room was available on the sixth, thirteen, twenty first, twenty sixth, and the twenty seventh of June. The Cordova Community Center was available every Wednesday in June. Chairman Brown suggested that Ms. Cox make a recommendation for the time and place in which the meetings will be held. Upon a motion made by Commissioner Cox to host a meeting at the Cordova Library June 26th at 6:00 p.m., Commissioner Webb seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously approved based on ADA accessibility. A second motion was made by Commissioner Brooks to host a meeting at the Breath of Life Christian Church in Raleigh June 21st at 6:00 p.m. Commissioner Fullilove seconded the motion and the meeting was unanimously approved based on ADA accessibility.

Next, Chairman Brown asked the Board, what method is being used to notify the public of the committee meetings. Commissioner Lowery stated he sends out a public notice to the media and he also directs people to the Charter Commission's web site to find out about future meetings. Commissioner Lowery recapped the last meeting and stated some individuals from the Hickory Hill area are requesting that the Charter Commission meet in Hickory Hill soon. He stated the Hickory Hill Community Center is open every Saturday during the month of June from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 a.m. to 8 p.m. Commissioner Lowery asked to make a motion that the committee meet at the Hickory Hill Community Center in June. Chairman Brown stating the motion was out of order, and any more than the two additional meetings agreed upon would be inappropriate. Commissioner Webb explained that at the last meeting the motion for two additional meetings was passed without a decision of where the meeting

places would be. Commissioner Webb suggested meeting in the Hickory Hill area but the meeting places were not a part of the motion. Chairman Brown stated either the Committee is going to have rules or not. Commissioner Lowery decided that he would discuss his motion under the New Business line item on the Agenda.

**PREPARE A LIST OF PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION:** The next item on the agenda was to prepare a list of proposed recommendations. Chairman Brown stated the purpose for discussing the proposed recommendations is to compile a list of suggestions from concerned citizens throughout the Memphis metropolitan area. He asked Board members for suggestion on how the process of elimination and consideration should be handled in reference to the committee responsibilities. His suggestion was to weed-out items not relevant to the Charter. Next, Commissioner Cox passed out a list of current recommendations and Commissioner Lowery stated that the Board should have a written document of comments, e-mail, and letters from individuals seeking change related to the Charter. He stated reviewing the document thoroughly to determine what the most popular issues are would move the board forward. He stated that it's his desire to be able to say that the Charter Commissioners looked at all of the issues that came before them and separated the eligible items from those that were not eligible.

Commissioner Brooks agreed with Commissioner Lowery's comments and suggested that the board should also make it be known to the constituents that non eligible items were not going to be reviewed during the recommendations discussion phase. Commissioner Fullilove asked Chairman Brown will the commissioners have an opportunity to discuss their personal issues and ideals pertaining to the Charter. Chairman Brown stated the time to discuss their issues and ideas is during the filter and consideration phase of the mission, which he thought by the end of summer the board will have already had in place.

Next, Chairman Brown recapped the presentation made by MTAS on term limits. He stated by the fall of 2007 he expects MTAS to have documents prepared on term limit for the board to utilize. He noted that the Memphis City Council is working on ethic policies and procedures for the board to consider hopefully by mid September. Commissioner Brown stated the item most interesting to him is campaign contributions.

Commissioner Cox suggested that she do a matrix spread sheet to identify those issues that are less important pertaining to the Charter. Chairman Brown suggested that each board member do individual research on the issues that have been presented to the Board for review. He stated if they do their own research, they would be better equipped to make a decision. In closing, the board decided that each member review the documents they received from the public related to the Charter, categorized the eligible items from those that were not eligible and come prepared to the meeting on Wednesday, August 29, 2007.

Upon a motion made by Commissioner Cox that each commissioner review feedback from the public relating to the Charter, categorize eligible items and come up with recommendations on matters to be considered as possible revisions or changes to the charter, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Webb and passed unanimously. In

closing Commissioner Webb expressed her concerns about the way meetings were controlled mostly by Chairman Brown.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Chairman Brown stated at the present time there weren't any drafts to discuss but he expects to have some by the fall of 2007. Commissioner Brooks asked the status on the proposed budget. Chairman Brown stated that the board probably needs legal counsel, noting that there's no excuse for not having a budget other than not having specific information needed for completion. Commissioner Lowery thanked Ms. Cox for doing a great job then he recapped the boards' conversation about hiring an administrative assistant. Commissioner Brooks asked will a budget for the commissioners be established within the next 45 days. He also asked about the time frame in which funding could be disbursed. Commissioner Lowery stated that once a resolution is passed by the City Council, funding should happen soon after. Chairman Brown closed by stating that the City Attorney's office has been helpful alone with MTAS and if the Board needs additional staffing, he's open for discussion in the near future.

In conclusion to Chairman Brown's statement Ms. Cox added that the board needs legal advice and asked if the City of Memphis law clerk is available. Jenni Falkof, Assistant Attorney for the City of Memphis, stated that the Law clerk is available. Chairman Brown agreed that the Board needs the legal help but at the moment they aren't sure how much to allot in the budget for such help verses hiring someone to transcribe or document recommendations.

Commissioner Brooks asked Chairman Brown did the Board give representatives from the City Court Clerk's office, the Judges and the City Attorney's office, 45 days to submit their recommendations for what they would like to see within the charter. Chairman Brown stated the Board only extended an invitation and the time frame had not been established.

New business: Upon a motion made by Commissioner Lowery to have a public meeting at the Hickory Hill Community Center on June 23, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and second by Commissioner Webb, the meeting was approved unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.