

Clinton County Government Study Commission Meeting
November 29, 2006
Minutes

Call To Order:

Chairman Dan Harger called the Commission to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Education and Resource Center. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was participated in by all present.

Roll Call:

Ms. Gardner took roll call as follows:

Present were: Ms. Deb Day, Mr. Mike Hanna, Mr. Daniel Harger, Ms. Coreena Meyer, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Ernie Renninger, Mr. Les Robinson and Dr. Robert Wise.

Absent was: Ms. June Houser, Dr. Kathleen McQuaid, and Mr. Richard Novosel.

Pennsylvania Economy League representative present was Mr. Charles Watters, Mr. Gerald Cross and Mr. Joe Boyle.

Approve Agenda:

Mr. Hanna made a motion to approved the November 29, 2006 agenda as presented. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the November 29, 2006 agenda as presented was approved unanimously.

New and Continuing Business:

Proforma Article on Initiative and Referendum:

Ms. Day made a motion to approve the Proforma Article on Initiative and Referendum with the following changes:

Section 3 Procedures for Initiative, a. Petitioners Committee: An application signed by at least fifty (50) registered voters of the County to commence the procedure for initiative instead of 100.

Section 3 Procedures for Initiative, f. Public Notice: Addition of language for a timeframe for advertising the summary of a proposed ordinance.

Section 3 Procedures for Initiative, i. Limit on Number of Initiative Questions: Language to allow two (2) questions on the ballot at any election instead on only one.

Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed as follows: Seven Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Ms. Meyer, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Mr. Renninger.

The PEL noted that language will also need to be added regarding duplicate initiatives on the same ballot.

Proforma Article on Purchasing Procedures:

Mr. Hanna made a motion to approve the Proforma Article on Purchasing Procedures as written. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.

Proforma Article on a Personnel Code:

Ms. Day made a motion to approve the Proforma Article on a Personnel Code with the following Change:

Section .02 Procedure for Adoption: Within six (6) months after the effective date of the Charter, the Personnel Code needs to be submitted to the Legislative Body instead of three months.

Ms. Meyer seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Hanna made a motion to approve the Proforma Article on a Personnel Code with the following Changes:

Section .12 Political Activity, b. Political Activities Prohibited: Move Numbers 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 to Section .12 Political Activity, a. Permitted Political Activity.

Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.

Proforma Article on Accountability, Conduct and Ethics:

Mr. Robinson motion to approve the Proforma Article on Accountability, Conduct and Ethics with the following Change:

Section .04 Accountability, Conduct and Ethics Commission, b: Two (2) registered voters of Clinton County appointed by the Legislative Body instead of only one.

Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2006:

Mr. Robinson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 15, 2006 as presented. Mr. Hanna seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to approve the November 15, 2006 minutes as presented was approved as follows: Seven Yeas: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Harger, Ms. Meyer, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise and One Nay: Mr. O'Connor.

Discussion on the Form of Government:

Mr. O'Connor stated that he wanted to change his vote taken at the November 15, 2006 meeting on the Form of Government. After discussion, the Study Commission felt that another vote by the members present on the question of the Form of Government was warranted.

Mr. Renninger made the motion to adopt the Council/Manager form of government which consists of seven elected Legislative Body Members and a hired Manager. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took roll call vote whereby the motion to adopt the Council/Manager form of government consists of seven elected Legislative Body Members and a hired Manager passed on a vote of Five Yeas: Mr. Harger, Mr. O'Connor, Mr. Renninger, Mr. Robinson and Dr. Wise and Three Nays: Ms. Day, Mr. Hanna, and Ms. Meyer.

It was noted that the Study Commission will need to make minor refinements to some of the decisions already made and will need to answer the Basic Questions Regarding a Hired Executive.

The PEL asked the Commission to read for review at the next meeting:

1. First Draft - Article II - Legislative Branch
2. First Draft - Article - Other Elective Officials
3. First Draft - Article - Recall
4. Proforma on Options for Tax Limitations
5. Basic Questions for Consideration Relative to Budget and Finance

The PEL stated that on the First Draft articles there will be blanks, underscores or bolding where specific language still needs to be addressed.

The PEL also gave the Study Commission salary information from 6th class counties for them to review and an editorial form the Times Leader on the Luzerne County Commissioners.

There was discussion on the various methods that can be used regarding tax limitations and the pros and cons associated with the methods.

Reports:

Invoice Review:

Treasurer O'Connor presented invoices as follows:

Technical Support	\$ 40.00
Clerical Support	\$ 209.25
PEL	\$2,382.70
Advertising	<u>\$ 16.42</u>
Total	\$2,648.37

Ms. Day made a motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$2,648.37. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. Ms. Gardner took a roll call vote whereby the motion to approve payment of the invoices totaling \$2,648.37 was approved unanimously.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 09:50 p.m.

Deb Day, Secretary
Clinton County Government Study Commission

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