

**SHARON HOME RULE CHARTER TRANSITION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 10, 2008, 6:00 p.m.  
Sharon City Council Chambers:

**Committee Attendee's:**

Joe Biro  
Frank Connelly  
Darin Flower

David George  
Victor Heutsche

William McConnell  
Ed Palanski  
Robert Wilson

Absent: Fred Hoffman

**Guests:**

Attorney William Madden

**Meeting Minutes:**

Chairman Palanski called the meeting to order.

Motion to accept the minutes from the previous meeting was made by Mr. Heutsche and seconded by Mr. Connelly.

Discussion of selecting alternate candidates for the committee was discussed. Jennifer Barborak has already been confirmed as an alternate. Additional names to serve as alternate were proposed and voted on. Chairman Palanski will contact John Evans and Robert Fiscus to see if they are interested in serving as alternates. Both gentlemen have previously expressed interest in serving on the transitional committee. If they do not express an interest in participating, additional candidates will be presented at the next meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding action needed in the drafting of the Administrative Code. Attorney Madden presented several ordinances in the form of bills that represented the minimum action required to satisfy the rules of the Sharon Home Rule Charter. The final bills (ordinances) will be approved by the Sharon City Council.

BILL NO. 12-08 This bill's main focus is on the decision process for selecting replacement member(s) of city council. Mr. Heutsche reviewed the city's history for selecting replacements and presented information that proved the process to be inconsistent. Mr. Connelly stated that there is a need to establish a process. Mr. Heutsche said that in the past the party in power (historically Democrat) suggested the nominee, which was in most instances accepted. Mr. Biro suggested we draft an outline of what we want see for bill NO. 12-08 and determine whether the replacement should be of the same party affiliation of the person being replaced. Mr. McConnell and Mr. Wilson said that anyone should be able to apply and it should not be tied to party affiliation. Section 3.11 of the charter was reviewed which clearly states that council is required to interview all qualified applicants prior to filling any vacancy. Attorney Madden pointed out that qualification for council members is detailed in Section 3.02 of the charter. He also added that Sunshine Laws would apply. It was determined that the Transition Committee would define the process as opposed to City Council defining the process. A sub-committee to define the process was comprised of Chairman Palanski, Mr. Flower, Mr. Heutsche and Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Heutsche provided an update on the City's website efforts. The next workshop (which will include review of the website) will be combined with the next city council meeting. The meeting and the workshop are scheduled for March 20, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Transition committee members were encouraged to attend if their schedules permitted.

Discussion ensued regarding the various authorities, boards and commissions of the city. Mr. Wilson questioned what the role of the City Planning Commission was. Mr. Heutsche and Mr. Connelly defined the planning commission's role. Mr. McConnell questioned how active the Business, Labor and Industry Advisory Board. Mr. Heutsche believed that this board was not active and that most new business was funneled through the Mayor. A sub-committee to review the possible activities and constitution of this board was formed and will be comprised of Mr. Biro, Mr. George and Mr. Wilson.

Mr. McConnell asked the committee to review Section 3.09 of the charter. Clarification of prohibitions as defined in the charter was reviewed. Compensated office versus non-compensated office prohibitions should have been stated more clearly in the charter. We will have to operate within the prohibitions of the charter as they are spelled out. Attorney Madden stated that the prohibitions would apply to boards and commissions, not authorities. Attorney Madden stated that authorities are state entities, not boroughs or cities. In regards to Section 3.09, the Recreation Board appears to have the only conflict currently. Mr. Flower suggested that a liaison role by council members may be the best solution for board and commission participation.

Chairman Palanski asked the committee to make suggestions as to how we should move forward. Mr. Heutsche suggested we look at the Redevelopment Board. Attorney Madden said that the Redevelopment Board is active and that they had met two weeks ago. Attorney Madden also stated that some of the authorities, boards and commissions were put into place to provide eligibility for receipts of grants. It was determined that at the next meeting we would look at which boards or commissions to eliminate, and then focus on revitalization and structure of the remaining boards and commissions.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn was submitted by Mr. George and seconded by Mr. McConnell.

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert E. Wilson  
Secretary-Treasurer