

Charter Commission Report

April 20 meeting

Melissa Ashburn, attorney with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) at the University at Tennessee, reported that she found no inconsistencies between the Oak Ridge Charter and Tennessee law. The commission was appointed in October to review that question. Oak Ridge City Attorney Ken Krushenski agreed with her conclusion.

After discussion, the group acceded to Lin Phillip's request for additional time to review the charter before formalizing the final report. The agenda for the next meeting is expected to include any comments on the charter and drafting the final report to City Council. The next, and very possibly last, meeting of the Charter Commission will be held on May 11, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

Ms. Ashburn was complimentary of the Charter and of Oak Ridge citizens. Ours is one of 13 Home Rule City charters in Tennessee and therefore requires a vote of the citizens to make any changes rather than have the legislature pass a private act. Our 40-page charter has been reviewed frequently; this review is the result of a stipulation inserted after recommendation by the previous Charter Commission for a review of inconsistencies with Tennessee law every 8 years.

~ Marty Adler-Jasny, Observer