

From: [Ronald](#)
To: [Luzerne County Council Members](#); [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Comment for
Date: Monday, January 23, 2023 6:47:03 PM

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Ronald Knapp

Nanticoke

Public Hearing (Government Study Commission)

Attention County Council Chair Radle, Vice Chair Lombardo, and all other council members.

I have a copy of a Luzerne County Council Work Session from February 08, 2022.

Agenda Item 10 was under the same context. My opinion during the public comments segment.

Acting Chief Solicitor Shannon Crake specified in an article of the Times Leader about the possible creation of a Government Study Commission, and quote. "Council cannot seek to form a study commission focused only on improving the current charter. Instead, the study Commission must have the freedom under state law to independently decide whether it wants to keep and modify the current home rule structure, draft an entirely new charter, or revert to the old structure."

With this to be fact I would suggest that current council members try to resolve the deficiencies that the charter has "placing all pride and mean spirits to the side." If they can amend ordinances and work out the flaws, then we won't be wasting valuable time it would take for a Government study commission to review and make their decisions.

1. Currently the Home Rule Charter has helped in reducing inherited debt accumulated under the 3-commission form of government.
2. It has helped in securing a good credit rating which should tell taxpayers

and residents it holds council members accountable for better budgetary decisions. Public comments are to be recognized for success in this area.

3. Open and honest transparency

Too vote in favor of a Government Study Commission would be paramount to kicking the proverbial can down the road. It could possibly put the government back to square one. Home Rule Charter took 18 months of painstaking work to draw up and was voted into existence by county residents on November 2, 2010 so there could be a separation of the 3 branches of government, Legislative, Executive and Judicial while all in view for a transparent process to hold all official accountable in their roles.

Let me repeat, “placing all pride and mean spirits to the side.” County Council, through this process can be a guiding light for even our Federal Government to follow.

Best Regards,

Ronald Knapp

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