

The Lublin City Government in the years 1915-1939. Principles of organization and functioning

In the research on the history of a city government one can observe unwavering interest in the subject of local government and its authorities among law historians and administrative law attorneys. Also, the issues of the local authorities during the interwar period have been eagerly studied by the researchers of the history of administration. The subject of this doctoral dissertation enters into this research stream and is its continuation.

The subject of the dissertation is the city government of the Lublin City as an executive and managing authority which operated in the years 1915-1939. The chronological caesuras of the dissertation determine the events related to the evacuation of the Russian authorities from the city and taking over the city management by the occupation authorities, first German (from August to September 1915), then Austro-Hungarian and establishing the seat of the General Government of Lublin. The considerations ends with the outbreak of the Second World War.

The aim of this dissertation is to present the principles of functioning and organization of the city government of the Lublin City in the years determined by the caesuras of this doctoral dissertation. Primarily, the aim was to present the legal basis of the functioning of the city government during the discussed period, as well as to present the organization and to analyze the staffing of its presidium. Another aim of the dissertation is to show the formal and legal status of city officials who were members of the city government of Lublin. Finally, the dissertation will present the internal organization of the Lublin City Government, i.e. the organizational structure of the city government, the organization of particular Departments as well as the principles of proceeding and decision making and the principles of office work.

The structure of this doctoral dissertation is based on a problem-chronological scheme. The basic division into chapters was separated basing on the subject-related nature. Within individual chapters a chronological order was applied. The work consists of six chapters preceded by an introduction and of a conclusion.

In the first four chapters, the Lublin City Government was presented during period determined by the caesuras of the dissertation. Each of the chapters has been distinguished on the basis of a time frame determined by the binding legal acts which constituted the legal basis of the City Government's activity during the discussed period. The other two chapters are holistic since they relate to issues connected with the functioning of the Lublin City Government in the years 1915-1939 which is the entire period determined by the caesuras of the dissertation.

The first chapter presents the Lublin City Government in the years 1915-1918, i.e. during

the Austro-Hungarian occupation. This chapter presents the process of creating the local government by Lubliners which was approved by the occupation authorities. Then, the organization of the presidium of the City Magistrate of Lublin was discussed on the basis of the City Legislations for Kielce, Lublin, Piotrków and Radom from 1916. Moreover the composition and principles of appointment, competences and staffing of the Magistrate was characterised. The next sections of the chapter were devoted to the activity of the City Government during the period limited by the caesuras of this chapter and to the issues of supervision of the Austro-Hungarian occupation authorities over the local government institutions in Lublin. This chapter ends with considerations regarding the presentation of the official attitude of the occupation authorities to the local government authorities of the city of Lublin in the discussed period. The sense of separating and closing the occupation period in the separated (first) chapter is supported by the fact that, although it was a local government, it was functioning under the constant control of the occupation authorities. Moreover, its main area of activity was determined by the needs of the ongoing war. In addition, its specifics should be determined by the fact that the legal basis of the local government, i.e. the Regulation of the Supreme Commander of the Army regarding the city legislation from 1916 which referred only to the four cities listed in it. In terms of content, the first chapter was based primarily on archival sources found during an enquiry of the series "Akta miasta Lublina 1915-1918" [Files of the City of Lublin 1915-1918], subject literature and normative acts concerning this period.

The second chapter was devoted to presentation of the organization and functioning of the Lublin City Government in 1919-1929, i.e. from the moment the Decree on municipal government of 1919 was in force and which introduced a new system of municipal government. The considerations made in this chapter reach the year 1929, which marks the beginning of the receiver government's rule in the city. This chapter presents the basic principles of the Decree on municipal government, the organization of the presidium of the Lublin City Government, i.e. the composition, rules of appointment and competence of the Magistrate which functioning as a council. Moreover, it presents the privileges and duties of the Mayor as a single-person executive authority of the Magistrate. The following sections illustrate the relationship of the City Government with the City Council and the political and administrative supervision of the Magistrate exercised by government administration authorities. The last subsections are devoted to analysis of the staffing of the Magistrate in the years determined by the time caesuras of this chapter which straddles the third and fourth term of office of the city authorities. This chapter has been developed basing on normative sources, archival sources, subject literature and local press.

The third chapter covers the period 1929-1934 and is devoted to the treatment of the receiver governance in Lublin. This part of the work presents issues concerning the institution of a receiver government and the legal bases for the appointment of a government commissioner basing on the Decree on municipal government. This chapter ends with the depiction of the receiver governance in Lublin exercised by two Commissioners: Seweryn Czerwiński and Józef Piechota. This chapter has been developed basing primarily on the subject literature, archival sources and the Journal of the Lublin City Government.

The fourth chapter presents the organization and functioning of the Lublin City Government during the times when the act on a partial change of the local government system of 1933 was in force, i.e. in the years 1934-1939. This chapter begins with considerations regarding the work on the unification of the local government system and the presentation of basic principles of the consolidation act which was adopted. The next sections of the chapter refer to the organization of the City Board and present the composition, principles of appointment and competences of the City Board as a collegial executive and management authority. Furthermore, it presents privileges and duties of the Mayor of the City as a single-man executive authority of the City Board. The next stages of the chapter concern mutual relations between the City Board and the City Council as well as political and administrative supervision over the City Board exercised by the state authorities. The last stages of the chapter are devoted to the presentation of the staffing of the City Board in the years 1934-1939, i.e. the years of the 6th and 7th term of office of the city authorities. This chapter was developed basing on the normative sources, literature, the Journal of the Lublin City Government and the Lublin press.

Chapter five is slightly different because it is devoted to the legal status of city officials of the Lublin City Government. This chapter begins with a discussion of the papers on the business pragmatics of the Lublin City Government. Moreover, it indicates the nature of the service relationship of local government employees employed in the City Board. The next sections of the chapter present the principles of employing officials in the Lublin Magistrate and identify the reasons for the termination of the service relationship. Then, the rights and obligations of officials were discussed. Considerations on the formal and legal status of officials of the Lublin City Government end showing the principles of liability of city officials and the principles of being subjected to the social insurance. This chapter was developed basing primarily on archival sources and articles published during the Second Polish Republic.

The sixth chapter deals with the internal organization of the City Government in the years 1915-1939, i.e. in the period limited by the caesuras of the dissertation. First of all, this chapter presents the organizational structure of the City Government together with the internal

organization of particular departments. The next stages refer to the principles of holding meetings and adopting resolutions by the Governing Board as well as to portrayal of departures from collegial proceedings by the Board. The separated subsection presents office systems which were in force in the Lublin Magistrate in the discussed period. The chapter was developed basing mostly on archival sources, including organizational statutes, meeting regulations, as well as clerical and office regulations of the Lublin City Government.

The doctoral dissertation is crowned with the conclusion divided into two parts. The first part of the conclusion is historical and deals with Lublin City Government during the German occupation. The second part of the ending includes the summary and the final conclusions of the paper.