

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

July 18, 2019 3:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: COMMISSION CHAIR Derrick Thaxton
VICE CHAIR Nikki Garry
COMMISSIONERS Marty Watkins, Francie Johnson, Mary Jo Comerford,
Kenneth White, Joyce Keller, and Byron Hansbro

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER Richard Zaker

ALSO, PRESENT: ACTING HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Angie Roberts

I. Call to Order

Chair Thaxton called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Six out of Nine Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Chair Thaxton declared a quorum does exist to conduct and approve business. Commissioner Watkins arrived at 3:35 p.m., and Vice Chair Garry arrived at 4:00 p.m.

II. Concerns, Comments or Questions from the Audience

There was none.

III. Approval of the May 30, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, Commissioners Derrick Thaxton, Marty Watkins, Francie Johnson, Mary Jo Comerford, Kenneth White, Joyce Keller, and Byron Hansbro voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

IV. Monthly Activity Report & Update/Summary of Cases

Acting Human Resources Manager Rogers presented the monthly status report of cases for Human Rights Investigator, Jan Runion (Exhibit A). There is no status report of cases for Human Rights Investigator, Fred Spannaus because he currently has no cases.

V. Unfinished Business

A. Update on Protecting Houses of Worship Presentation

Chair Thaxton shared that he, French Wilson and Penny Rogers had a conference call with Kenith Bergeron from the U.S. Department of Justice regarding protecting houses of worship. The presentation has been scheduled for Friday, September 13th, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. at The Decatur Club. The goal is to have information ready to send out to the public by August 1st.

B. MLK Celebration 2020

1. Discussion on MLK Theme

After some discussion, a motion was made by Commissioner Johnson to approve the MLK celebration 2020 theme; The future of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's 20/20 vision...for Criminal Justice, Racial Equality, Social Justice...How Do You See It?, seconded by Commissioner Hansbro. Upon roll call, Commissioners Derrick Thaxton, Marty Watkins, Francie Johnson, Mary Jo Comerford, Kenneth White, Joyce Keller, and Byron Hansbro voted aye. Commissioner Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

2. Discussion of MLK Banquet speaker

Acting Human Resources Manager, Penny Rogers mentioned that we will not be able to use Chris Singleton as our speaker for the MLK banquet. The cost to have Mr. Singleton speak is going to be over our budgeted amount. Chair Thaxton brought up a few other possibilities for speakers. HR Manager, Penny Rogers is going to look into the availability and the cost of having Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the speaker of the banquet. The decision for the speaker has been tabled for August meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Discussion on Advertising for the Commission

Vice Chair Garry discussed advertising for the Commission by putting flyers in the City water bills to help get the word out about the Commission. Commissioner Hansbro suggested putting flyers up in business breakrooms to help citizens become more aware of their rights in the work place and how the Commission can help them.

VII. Other Business

A. Discussion of Freedom March Speaker

At the June meeting, it was suggested that Vice Chair Garry be the speaker for the program held after the MLK Freedom March. Vice Chair Garry has graciously accepted.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Commissioner Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice Chair Garry.

Upon roll call, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.