

# HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

August 20, 2020 4:00 p.m.  
City Council Chambers

**PRESENT:** COMMISSION CHAIR Derrick Thaxton  
VICE CHAIR Nikki Garry  
COMMISSIONERS Marty Watkins, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, and  
Richard Zaker  
**ABSENT:** COMMISSIONER Francie Johnson  
**ALSO, PRESENT:** ACTING HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers  
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY Sherry Beasley

## **I. Call to Order**

Chair Thaxton called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

### **A. Roll Call**

Six out of seven Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Chair Thaxton declared a quorum does exist to conduct and approve business.

## **II. Concerns, Comments or Questions from the Audience**

There were none.

## **III. Approval of the July 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

Motion was made by Commissioner Hansbro to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Garry. Upon roll call, Commissioners Derrick Thaxton, Nikki Garry, Marty Watkins, Byron Hansbro, Joyce Keller, and Richard Zaker, voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

## **IV. Monthly Activity Report & Summary of Cases**

Acting Human Resources Manager Rogers presented the monthly status report of cases for Human Rights Investigator, Fred Spannaus (Exhibit A). Discussion followed.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

### **A. Protecting Places of Worship – Part II**

Commission Chair Thaxton stated he will contact Mr. Bergeron to see if he has information we can send to the individuals who attended the Protecting Places of Worship forum that was held last September.

### **B. MLK 2021**

#### **1. Motion to cancel 2021 MLK luncheon and speaker**

Due to Covid-19 and only being allowed to hold events with up to 50 people, it would be difficult to hold the traditional luncheon with speaker. Motion was made by Vice Chair Garry to cancel the January 2021 luncheon and speaker, seconded by Commissioner Hansbro. Upon roll call, Commissioners Derrick

Thaxton, Nikki Garry, Marty Watkins, Byron Hansbro, Joyce Keller, and Richard Zaker, voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

2. Motion to move MLK March from January 2021 to June 2021 in conjunction with Juneteenth

Commission Chair Thaxton said he spoke with Evelyn Hood from the African-American Genealogical Society about the annual Juneteenth celebration. Ms. Hood explained there is a parade and celebration held in Central Park. The Genealogical Society will soon have a board meeting and they will discuss the Commission's interest in participating in this event. Commissioner Hansbro suggested the essays, poems and drawings from the contest be displayed in a booth in Central Park during Juneteenth. Commissioner Zaker suggested we put something on our Facebook page stating we are sorry we had to cancel the luncheon and March, and highlight what we are doing instead. Commissioner Watkins made a motion to table this item until September, seconded by Commissioner Zaker. Upon roll call, Commissioners Derrick Thaxton, Nikki Garry, Marty Watkins, Byron Hansbro, Joyce Keller, and Richard Zaker, voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

3. Motion to approve theme for MLK essay, poetry and drawing contest.

Commissioner Hansbro and Vice Chair Garry met and came up with two possible themes for the essay, poetry and drawing contest. They are, "Decatur - Walking Together into our Future" or "Decatur - Walking and Talking Together into our Future." Commissioner Hansbro and Vice Chair Garry also came up with two possible themes for the scholarship contest. They are "We are Better Together: Creating our Future" or "We are Better Together: Building our Future." Vice Chair Garry will send Ms. Rogers verbiage to share with the Commissioners which further explains the themes. Vice Chair Garry made a motion to table this item until September, seconded by Commissioner Watkins. Upon roll call, Commissioners Derrick Thaxton, Nikki Garry, Marty Watkins, Byron Hansbro, Joyce Keller, and Richard Zaker, voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

4. Motion to hold essay, poetry and drawing contest in February 2021 and scholarship contest in December 2020

Chair Thaxton asked Commissioner Keller and Commissioner Zaker if they would talk to the Herald & Review about doing a story on the essay, poetry and drawing contest. They agreed. Commissioner Zaker made a motion to table this item until September, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, Commissioners Derrick Thaxton, Nikki Garry, Marty Watkins, Byron Hansbro, Joyce Keller, and Richard Zaker, voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

**VI. New Business**

There was none.

**VII. Other Business**

Acting Human Resources Manager Rogers stated that Commissioner White's term has expired and he has chosen not to be reappointed to the Commission due to other commitments. This means there are now two openings on the Commission. Vice Chair Garry asked if Ms. Rogers could send information about the Commission to the Commissioners that can be used as a recruitment tool to potential Commissioners.

Acting Human Resources Manager Rogers stated elections for Chair and Vice Chair will be held at the September meeting.

**VIII. Adjournment**

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

Upon roll call, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.