FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

: OFFICIAL MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Fair Employment Commission was held on August 8, 2019 at 4:45 p.m., at City Hall, Room 404, 419 Fulton Street. The meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Denise Moore.

ROLL CALL
Staff Liaison: Jamila K Wilson, PeoriaCorps Program Director (proxy for Dr. Farris Muhammad, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer), and Denise Moore, City Councilwoman District 1.

MINUTES
Minutes from the last meeting were not read or approved.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Hiring

• Nothing to report.

Contract Compliance

• No updated report was provided at this meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

I. The goal for this commission is to review the ordinance and review its relevance. Councilwoman Moore shared that upon visiting different cities through the League of Cities program that other cities separated their housing and employment commissions due to the
enormity of concerns and opportunity that impact each one separately.

II. Councilwoman Moore continued by sharing that the Commission on Human Resources can be a resource to tap into to support the work of this commission. The Commission on HR has funds available for employment training – they have a budget of 200-250k to allocate out in grants, with a minimum allocation of 15k. Katherine Murphy is the staff liaison for this commission.

Councilwoman Moore shares that the commission needs to clarify who it is – using the ordinance to guide how the commission moves forward.

III. Councilwoman Moore opened it for nominations for chair and vice-chair. Commissioner Bryson asked a clarifying question; what had the previous commission done? Councilwoman Moore’s response to Commissioner Bryson spoke to the focus placed on the commission by the city and some members of the commission who would not show up to the meeting. Often, the commission would meet without a quorum which limited the amount of actions the commission could take on any agenda items.

IV. Commissioner Holloway nominated Commissioner Carter-Allen. Prior to a vote, Commissioner Bryson asked if they should wait for more members to make the decision. Councilwoman Moore responded that the commission must move forward with the members present. Commissioner Bryson provided a second for the nomination. Commissioners present voted unanimously in favor of the motion and Commissioner Carter-Allen accepted the position of chair of the Fair Employment Commission.

V. Commissioner Carter-Allen commented on her years of involvement with this commission and the need to revise and update its jurisdiction. She shared that this commission can serve as an advisory role to the Equal Opportunity Office related to hiring and employment. In addition, having someone from the legal office with the City would help provide more clarity on what this commission can and cannot do.
VI. Commissioner McGinty expressed his interest as vice-chair and Commissioner Bryson seconded the nomination. Commissioners present voted unanimously in favor of the motion and Commissioner McGinty is now the vice-chair of the Fair Employment Commission.

VII. Chair Carter-Allen invited the members of the commission to familiarize themselves with “Municode Peoria, IL (instructed to put this in their web browser). This pulls up all the codes for the City of Peoria. Chair Carter-Allen advised the commissioners to go to the library, see Chapter 17 in the table of content. Go to Human Relations, then Housing and Employment, and review article 11, the Fair Employment Commission. Chairwoman Carter-Allen expressed interest in (or has already) meeting with the city’s attorneys for guidance on how to revise and expand the role of this commission.

VIII. Chair Carter-Allen has requested three hole binders for all seven of the commissioners with copies of the ordinance and the guidance from Ch. 17. She also requested that city attorney Melodi Green be present for the next commission’s meeting in September. Chair Carter-Allen shared the commission will spend the remainder of the year familiarizing themselves with the ordinance and guidance and prepare for the beginning of 2020 to discuss changes they would like to proceed with for this commission.

IX. Councilwoman Moore mentioned funding is available in the South Village Tiff, $150k, for employment training, and advise the commission to prepare for the upcoming budget talks and how the commission could request resources to support the work they are doing.

X. Chair Carter-Allen pointed out according to the ordinance the 1st meeting of the reconvened commission will not count against members who were not present for this meeting, but moving forward if a commissioner has three consecutive unexcused absences they are to be recommended for removal from the commission. For the
specific language she encouraged commissioners to review the ordinance – V 17.27 sub section b. Vice-chair McGinty offered the opportunity to revise the ordinance to possibly include telecommunication options for commissioners who were unable to physically be present. This was received by the other commissioners with positive responses.

COMMUNITY INPUT

- Joe A. asked if this was a new commission; Councilwoman Moore responded, No, it is a reconstitution of the previous commission, Fair Housing and Employment Commission. They have been separated into there separate commissions.

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING
Chair Carter-Allen requested for the next meeting to be able to process the guidance outlined in Ch.17 and obtain context for how to proceed with changing the ordinance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS FOR NEXT MEETING
None

NEW BUSINESS
None

PETITIONS FROM CITIZENS/OFFICIALS
None

ADJOURNMENT
Chair Carter-Allen called for a motion to adjourn; Commissioner Bryson made the motion and Vice Chair McGinty second. The Fair Employment Commission Meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.
NEXT MEETING DATE

September 12, 2019

JKW
09/05/19