

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MINUTES

April 21, 2022 4:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

PRESENT: COMMISSION CHAIR Derrick Thaxton
VICE CHAIR Nikki Garry
COMMISSIONERS Richard Zaker, Byron Hansbro, Joyce Keller, Vivian Goodman and Gina Taylor

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER Francie Johnson
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Sherry Beasley

ALSO PRESENT: HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER Penny Rogers
ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL Amy Waks

I. Call to Order

Commission Chair Thaxton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

A. Roll Call

Six out of eight Commissioners were present at the time of roll call. Vice Chair Garry entered the meeting at 4:02 p.m.; therefore, seven out of eight Commissioners were present for the meeting. Commission Chair Thaxton declared a quorum does exist to conduct and approve business.

II. Appearance of Citizens

The following citizen provided comments to the Commission: Abeer Motan.

III. Approval of the March 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Commissioner Goodman to approve the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Vivian Goodman, Byron Hansbro, and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Vice Chair Nikki Garry & Commissioner Gina Taylor abstained. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

IV. Monthly Activity Report & Summary of Cases

Human Resources Manager Penny Rogers provided a monthly status report of cases. (Exhibit A) Discussion followed regarding case #220114.

V. Recess to Closed Session

Commissioner Hansbro moved to recess to Closed Session under Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/2(c) to consider evidence or testimony presented in open hearing, to a quasi-adjudicative body, seconded by Vice Chair Garry. Upon roll call, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Vivian Goodman, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

VI. Return to Open Session

Commissioner Hansbro moved to return to Open Session, seconded by Vice Chair Garry, upon call of the roll, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Vivian Goodman, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

VII. Unfinished Business

Commission Chair Thaxton called for Unfinished Business. There was none.

VIII. New Business

Commission Chair Thaxton called for New Business.

A. Motion to Approve Report and Recommendation of Hearing Officers in the Jeremy Curry vs. Wright Tree Service Case 200928

Vice Chair Garry motioned to approve the report and recommendation, seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Upon call of the roll, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Commissioner Vivian Goodman abstained. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

B. Motion to Approve Order of the Commission in the Jeremy Curry vs. Wright Tree Service Case 200928

Vice Chair Garry motioned to approve the Order of the Commission in the Jeremy Curry vs Wright Tree Service Case 200928, seconded by Commissioner Hansbro. Upon call of the roll, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Commissioner Vivian Goodman abstained. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

C. Nominations for the position of Chair

Commission Chair Thaxton asked the Commissioners if there are any nominations for the position of Chair. Commission Chair Thaxton nominated Vice Chair Garry. Commission Chair asked if anyone else would like to nominate someone else to be Chair. There being no other

nominations, Chair Thaxton made the motion to nominate Vice Chair Garry as Commission Chair, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon call of the roll, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Vivian Goodman, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

D. Nominations for the position of Vice Chair

Commission Chair Thaxton asked the Commissioners if there are any nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Vice Chair Garry nominated Commissioner Byron Hansbro. Commission Chair Thaxton asked if anyone would like to nominate someone else to be Vice Chair. There being no other nominations, Vice Chair Garry made the motion to nominate Commissioner Hansbro as Vice Chair, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon call of the roll, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Vivian Goodman, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the motion carried.

E. Juneteenth

Human Resources Manager Rogers stated she received a letter from the African-American Cultural & Genealogical Society regarding Juneteenth. Their annual Juneteenth event will be held downtown in Central Park on Saturday, June 18. They are asking for financial sponsorship. She stated the Commission could not provide financial assistance since we receive donations for our events, but asked the Commission if they would like to participate or attend Juneteenth in lieu of a financial sponsorship. Suggestions made by the Commissioners regarding Juneteenth were:

- Attend and wear the t-shirts we wore last year
- Have buttons (Human Resources Manager Rogers stated she will get with Ms. Beasley to see what she suggests as far as a design)
- Have a table with skirt with the Commission's logo
- Pass out pamphlets about the Commission
- Participate in the March. Commission Chair Thaxton said we could bring the Commission's Martin Luther King banner for the March.
- Get on stage and make a statement regarding the Commission's activities

Commission Chair Thaxton will coordinate with Evelyn Hood. Commissioner Keller asked if we could display the poems, essays and art work from the Black History Month program. Human Resources Manager Rogers responded the materials were returned to the students. Commissioner Taylor volunteered to keep a historical book of these types of items from the Commission's events.

IX. Other Business

Commission Chair Thaxton called for Other Business. There was none.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Vice Chair Garry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Keller. Upon roll call, Commissioners Richard Zaker, Joyce Keller, Byron Hansbro, Gina Taylor, Vivian Goodman, Vice Chair Nikki Garry and Commission Chair Derrick Thaxton voted aye. Commission Chair Thaxton declared the meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.