

MINUTES

PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 10, 2024

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Chairperson Councilmember Aaron Wahl.

2. Roll Call

Councilmember Aaron Wahl, Ward II, Chairperson, Councilmember Barbara McGuinness, Ward I, Councilmember Michael Moore, Ward III, Councilmember Merrell Hansen, Ward IV. Also, in attendance was Chief Cheryl Funkhouser and Mr. Larry Walker (City of Chesterfield VIP and nominee to the Chesterfield Police Personnel Board).

3. Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Hansen motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2024. The motion carried 4-0.

4. Election of Vice-Chairperson of the Public Health & Safety Committee

Councilmember McGuinness motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to nominate Councilmember Hansen for the position of Vice-Chairman of the Public Health & Safety Committee. The motion was approved 4-0.

5. Elect Liaison to the Police Personnel Board

Councilmember McGuinness motioned and Councilmember Hansen seconded to nominate Councilmember Moore to the position of Liaison to the Police Personnel Board. The motion approved 4-0.

The Committee suspended the regular order to wait for Mr. Walker's arrival.

7. Proposed Resolution

Chairperson Wahl presented a proposed resolution supporting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism.

Councilmember Moore voiced his opinion that by selecting one religious organization neglects presented, noting that possibly there should be a proclamation against hatred encompassing ALL religious/ethnic groups. He noted that if passed for antisemitism, other specific groups will request additional resolutions to represent each of those groups. He also voiced that focusing on one group neglects other nationalities and/or religions. Chairperson Wahl and Councilmember McGuinness disagreed.

Upon further discussion, Councilmember Hansen voiced support of the resolution but with broader terms.

The Committee returned to its original order of the agenda at 5:30 PM

6. Interview of Potential Candidate for the Police Personnel Board

Mr. Larry Walker was introduced to the Committee Members.

The members of the Committee reviewed Mr. Walker's resume. They then inquired why he would like to be appointed to the Police Personnel Board. Mr. Walker noted that he has been involved with the Police Department for many years. He began by attending a session of the Police Department's Citizen Police Academy followed by being a member of the City's Citizen Emergency Response Team. He has been a member of the Volunteers In Policing for approximately 20 years. Mr. Walker also noted his business activity while a part of the public work force.

Councilmember Moore noted that Mr. John Nichols is retiring his position on the Police Board at the end of August and this appointment would begin then for a three-year term.

Councilmember McGuinness motioned and Chairperson Wahl seconded to recommend Mr. Walker's appointment to the Police Personnel Board by City Council. The motion carried unanimously. The recommendation will be forwarded to City Council for their approval.

The Committee members thanked Mr. Walker for his work with the City.

(The members of the Committee requested that they be informed of the date of the next Citizens' Academy when scheduled.)

The Committee returned to Agenda #7 to continue their discussion.

7. Continuation – Proposed Resolution

Chairperson Wahl suggested two resolutions with one being specific to antisemitism.

Chairperson Wahl noted that the resolution regarding antisemitism be used as an educational tool.

After additional discussion, it was decided to table this issue for the next meeting requesting that Councilmember Moore work with the City Administrator and the City Attorney to produce one or more resolutions to cover antisemitism and also to cover any hate speech against other ethnicities.

The Committee agreed to table the request for the resolution.

8. Police Appreciation Month/Week

Chairperson Wahl suggested there be recognition of the work of the Police Officers by the City and also be promoted to the residents of Chesterfield.

Councilmember McGuinness suggested yard signs be made available to residents to pick up at City Hall and utilized during the week that National Night Out is celebrated in the City.

The Committee agreed this would be a good idea but cost for the signs needs to be considered.

This will be tabled for the next meeting with direction to Chief Funkhouser to get the cost for 500 to 1,000 signs.

9. There was no other business.
10. The next meeting is scheduled for July 1, 2024 at 5:00 PM.
- 11: Adjourn

Chairperson Wahl motioned and Councilmember Moore seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.