



Agenda

Human Rights Commission

September 3, 2020 | 6:30 p.m. | City Council Chambers

Due to the temporary closure of public meetings at City Hall because of COVID-19, persons interested in attending the Human Rights Commission meeting via Zoom must email Commissioner Joel Logue at joelklogue@gmail.com prior to 12:00 p.m.(noon) on Thursday, September 3, 2020 to reserve a meeting invitation.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes – Approval of the August 6, 2020 meeting minutes

Public Comment (3 minutes only)

Old Business

- Election of Commission Secretary
- Proposed Changes to the Municipal City Code (Section 40.155-40.159)
- Proposed Changes to the Commission By-Laws

New Business

- Report of Sub-Committees
- Alderman Interactions with Constituent
- Results from Meeting with Police Chief
- Late Additions

Commissioner's Comments

Adjournment

The Human Rights Commission works to provide leadership and advocacy to secure, protect, and promote human rights for all people. The Commission values the dignity of all human beings regardless of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identification, marital status, parental status, mental or physical disability, source of income, military status, military discharge status or any other protected status.



Human Rights Commission
Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2020

Roll Call

Present: Katie Averkamp, Kate Daniels, Tiria Humphrey, Joel Logue, Lisa Machold, Mary Lou McLaughlin, Sue Rush, Chris Taylor, Dr. Christine Tracy, Pam Wallace, Dennis Williams

Absent: Zach Bemis (E), Macy Ferguson-Smith (E), Kris Kutcher (E), Cecil Weathers

Approval of Minutes

Mary Lou McLaughlin asked the spelling of her name be changed to reflect the correct spelling. She also stated that there was a guest present and comments from the guest when addressed by the Commission. The guest expressed interest in becoming a member of the Commission. McLaughlin also requested that it be noted that changes were made to the letter and members were asked to sign the letter. She questioned Officer Bemis' position on the Committee. McLaughlin also would like it noted that Alderman Mike Rein is from the 5th Ward. The Commissioners discussed how public (audience) involvement during the meetings should be stated in the minutes.

Cecil Williams arrived at this time.

Kate Daniels, seconded by Chris Taylor, moved that the minutes from the August 6, 2020, meeting be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Joseph Principe was present to speak.

Mr. Principe expressed his dissatisfaction with the Commission and feels his voice is not being heard but he did not elaborate that at the last meeting because of the crowd. He stated he has filed a complaint against a newly reported Commissioner and that Commissioner has not acknowledged the complaint or spoken to the HRC about the complaint. He does not want to be insensitive to the experiences of others but wants it to be noted that he is being physically threatened by people in public places, including an Alderman. Principe referred to an incident with Alderman Holtschlag at the Harrison Hy-Vee. Principe stated that the legal community, authorities, local media, and advocacy groups are allowing the threats to happen to him. He stated Mayor Moore smirked at him

and has told the City Clerk's Office that he could not attend or speak at meetings anymore because he spoke of the incident involving Alderman Holtschlag at a City Council meeting. Principe says a video of Mayor Moore's reaction at the City Council meeting has gone viral on social media. Degrading and derogatory comments are being made about him on social media and these remarks are not being reported as hate speech.

McLaughlin asked Principe how the Commission could assist him. Principe said that he filed a complaint against a local nightclub so that the incident would at least be on record. He says the Commission's goal is not clear and he does not know exactly what he is supposed to do from here.

Logue asked Principe about the subject and context of a video he sent to him. Principe says that it is the recording of the City Council meeting that shows the Mayor's expressions after Principe spoke about the incident with Alderman Holtschlag. Logue asked Principe about the incident with Alderman Holtschlag. He stated that he expressed his dissatisfaction to Holtschlag about changing his vote on a nightclub issue and that Holtschlag then threatened him using explicate language. Alderman Awerkamp asked Principe who initiated the discussion with Alderman Holtschlag. Principe stated that he initiated the conversation as it is his right to do so with an elected official. The police were called to the incident by Hy-Vee management. The police officer asked Principe to leave the Hy-Vee property and no arrests were made.

Logue and Williams apologized that the Commission did not communicate with Principe better concerning his complaint about the nightclub.

The Commission thanked Principe for coming forward with incident involving Alderman Holtschlag. Logue informed him that he can ask for video of incidents like this in public places for his own protection.

Logue asked Conte if there is anything in the City code that allows someone to be barred from speaking at City Council meetings. Conte stated that he does not know as it is a legal question. The Commission will report back with the legality of Principe being banned from meetings. They will speak with the City legal staff. Logue will follow-up with Principe as to whether or not he is banned from meetings.

Old Business

Proposed Changes to the Municipal City Code (Section 40.155-40.159)

Macy Ferguson-Smith emailed Commissioners the proposed changes. Not everyone received the email. Logue will request that Commissioner Smith resend the email and that Commissioners submit requested changes. Logue asked Conte what the procedures are for amending the code. Conte stated the Commission should submit written recommendations to City staff. Staff will forward the request to the Mayor's Office and he will submit it to City Council as an ordinance. An ordinance requires three readings unless an Alderman makes a motion to waive the three readings and adopt the motion. The Commission discussed whether the Commission as a whole or a sub-committee should review the code and make changes. It was decided that a sub-committee of Logue, Taylor and Wallace would be

formed. The sub-committee will meet and send purposed changes to the other Commissioners and a vote will be taken at the September meeting.

New Business

Alderman Comments from July 6, 2020 City Council Meeting

Logue asked if the Commissioners have had a chance to read the letter concerning the comments. Williams stated that he received fifteen telephone calls and he thanked them for the comments.

Open Meetings Act Training

Conte stated that the City only offers online training. There are not any computers available for training at this time. The Commission asks that the City report back when computers are available for training.

Formation of By-Laws Committee

Logue asked for volunteers to serve on the By-Laws Sub-Committee. The committee will recommend changes to the by-laws which determine how the Commission will rule and serve. Daniels, Wallace and Ferguson-Smith will serve on the committee.

Late Additions

City Email Accounts - The City does not issue City email accounts to committee or commission members.

Open Meetings Act Training - The City only offers the online training at this time.

Zoom Meetings - City Hall will be closing down to all non-essential public meetings. Zoom meetings can be held but the meeting still must be posted.

Business Cards - Obtain price for "generic" cards that can be used by all Commission members.

Commissioners' Comments

Williams stated that he feels it is unfair of the Commission to ask staff of agencies to pass words or information on to their place of work as it is the duty of the other Commissioners.

Rush stated she is looking forward to changes in the by-laws and feels the past couple of years the Commission has not been definite in anything that has been done.

Humphrey stated she looks forward to being on the Commission.

McLaughlin thanked everyone for coming.

Weathers welcomed all the new Commissioners and asked names of new Commissioners as he has not been at last two meetings. He encouraged the Commissioners to stay focused on the mission of the Commission.

Daniels stated she sent an email about what can be done about the inevitable increase in homeless and a training session on what City's can do to be proactive.

Taylor asked if a complaint form was available online for people to wanting to file an complaint with the Commission. It will be discussed at the By-Laws Committee.

Wallace asked if the Commission is going to address the incident with a video recording and service animals in the police station.

Logue described the email video of someone entering the police station to file a complaint while videotaping the interaction. Logue is going to speak with Chief Copley and obtain information about the incident.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned on a motion by Dennis Williams, seconded by Sue Rush.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Conte, P.E.
Secretary Pro-tem