

**Chairman Harris called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m., after the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Members present:** Valerie Cruse, Anthony Harris, Daryl Murphy, Taylor Sutphen and Jennifer Washington.

**Members Absent:** Charlene Adams and Wendy Dobyns.

**Ex-Officio members present:** John Orzech - Police Chief, Talon Flohr - Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator

**Staff Present:** Naomi Twine – Commission Liaison & Kelly Kresser - Clerk

## **CURRENT BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Upon motion of Daryl Murphy and second of Jennifer Washington, the members voted to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2018, meeting. The Chairman declared the motion passed.**

### **Update on Neighborhood Initiative**

Talon Flohr, Neighborhood Outreach Coordinator, said the **street sign toppers are being installed in designated neighborhoods** throughout the city. They are the same size as street name signs and are different colors in each neighborhood. The summer programming and cleanup events are being scheduled. The city submitted the grant application to the Department of Defense for funding of the **connector trail for Jaycee Park**. Our application is currently under review and we should hear after a four to six review period. If approved, construction would commence this summer.

### **Open Discussion**

Anthony Harris asked about the **Jackson Street Pier project** and Talon Flohr noted it is under construction and is scheduled for completion in 2020.

Anthony Harris said the **speed zone sign** which was in his neighborhood did not seem to be working and has been removed. Chief Orzech said the data is collected regardless of the speed being posted and will check on the data.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

John Orzech said the **city recently hired one new Fire Fighter** and are is still looking to hire one to two additional to bring us up to full staffing levels. The Police and Fire Departments both utilize the National Testing Network to test candidates under the same processes and there will be a new test given for original appointment in the Police Department this summer. Fire Chief Rick Wilcox works with Cleveland organizations because of his previous employment in East

Cleveland to recruit minority candidates. Recruiting minority candidates has been a challenge for law enforcement and fire departments around the country. Three of the last ten Police Officers hired have been minorities after going decades without minority candidates being hired. Naomi Twine said she knows this is on the radar of both the Police and Fire Chief and there have been many statewide connections made to help in this endeavor. The Police Department recruitment period is May 1 through June 14 and the Fire Department recruitment period is April 1 through May 20. Daryl Murphy asked about points for training purposes and John Orzech explained a maximum of 20% can be added to a candidates as follows: Veterans, 20%; Ohio Police Academy: 10%; Associate degree, 5%; or a Bachelor's degree, 10%. The college credit percentages were given at the urging of City Commissioner Wes Poole who advocated for this. After testing background tests and interviews, a complete list of ten applicants is provided for each (one) appointment. Members of the Police Department are afforded ongoing sensitivity training and this is also provided in the police academy (40 hours).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Anthony Harris asked if there were **nominations for the office of Chairperson of the Community Relations Commission**. Upon motion of Jennifer Washington and second of Valerie Cruise, the commission voted for Taylor Sutphen to be Chairperson. There being no further nominations, Anthony Harris said this motion passes.

Anthony Harris asked if there were **nominations for the office of Vice Chairperson of the Community Relations Commission**. Upon motion of Valerie Cruise and second of Anthony Harris, the commission for Daryl Murphy to be Vice Chairperson. There being no further nominations, Anthony Harris said this motion passes.

John Orzech said the **use of force issue** was raised locally because of a recent issue in Perkins Township. In the SPD, Sgt. Ron Snyder and Detective Sergeant Kevin Youskievicz provide training about laws and the use of force and offered for them to attend the next CRC meeting for the members' benefits. This meeting would be open to the public thus anyone is welcome to attend. A meeting has also been scheduled, at the request of Daryl Murphy who is President of the local chapter of the NAACP, about use of force with Sandusky, Perkins Township and the Erie County Sheriff's Department. Daryl Murphy said it is important to review the departmental policies as they relate to the arrest.

John Orzech said **body cameras are used by all members of the Police Department** and they are trained to turn them on while enroute to a call. Cruiser a/v equipment is provided and is always on.

Kelly Kresser said Wendy Dobyms notified her she will no longer be able to serve on the Community Relations Commission due to taking a new job and working out of town. Jennifer Washington said she recently relocated to Perkins Township and was not certain if she is able to

continue serving. Kelly Kresser said the legislation which created the CRC specifies "citizen" and will ask the Law Director if this is interpreted to mean city residents only.

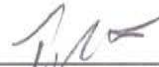
**ADJOURNMENT**

**Upon motion of Taylor Sutphen and second of Jennifer Washington, the members voted to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Chairperson Sutphen declared the motion passed.**



Attest: Kelly Kresser, Clerk

Date: 6/20/19



Taylor Sutphen, Chairperson

Date: 6/20/19