

WEST SCIOTO AREA COMMISSION
September 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at P.M. to allow time for any additional commissioners to log on.

Commissioners McKinley, Leppert, Cabral, Endicott, Cabus, Thomas and Weber were present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Commissioner Leppert seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Officer Paulus gave his report. Not very much going on in our area. The charter school on Hague had an issue with someone interfering in an electronic meeting there. He is working on that with them and has an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner Weber joined the meeting.

Erin Beck was present to speak about electric aggregation and the civilian review board. Erin shared a power point presentation with us.

Matt Smydo was present to speak about the civilian review board. It will be on the ballot to amend the city charter. Review board and inspector general dept. They will investigate officer misconduct. They will have subpoena power. The budget will not be able to be reduced. Members of the board will be diverse. It is concise (one page). This is an outline that simply outlines the work. There is a work group that will further flesh out the specifics of the work of the inspector general and civilian review board. They will have to negotiate with the FOP.

Commissioner Leppert asked if the members were to be paid. Answer: up to work group. Commissioner Leppert asked how members would be chosen. Answer: up to the work group. Mr. Smydo outlined some of the ways they are chosen in other areas. Commissioner Leppert asked about their training. Answer: will be very careful how they are chosen. Cannot have any bias. May have to complete ride alongs. Training at the police academy. Annual professional development. These are all things that can be under consideration.

Commissioner Leppert asked if people apply or are chosen. The answer is that the work group will determine that. Commissioner Leppert asked how the work group is chosen. Mayor worked with community groups to obtain names. Diversity in this group was a priority.

Commissioner Leppert asked if the members are public. www.columbus.gov/civilianreviewboardworkgroup
All meetings and materials and agendas are on that website.

Commissioner Endicott asked if the work group's work would be completed before the election in November. Work will be done by end of year. The goal is to have it completed before asking voters to vote on it in an election. A lot of this is being driven by the work group members.

Commissioner Leppert asked if there was an estimate of the cost. Answer is that it is unknown at this point. The work group will determine that. The website has a document from the National Organization that does this work. It compares 40-50 review boards across the country. They like the one that is based on the number of law enforcement FTEs there are.

Commissioner Thomas asked about the budget not being able to be changed in the future. He asked if review board members get paid, if voters would determine that or if it could be changed. Answer was that some things would be able to be changed and some not. Anything in the amendment would not be able to be changed.

Commissioner Leppert asked if other cities have done this by ballot initiatives/amendments. Answer was that there are all forms

Commissioner Cabus asked if there would be age limits for the Board members. Answer there would be none. It will be up to the work group.

Commissioner Cabral asked if officers would be contributing to the fund for this board. She indicated that some communities have officers contributing to the fund for this. Answer was that it would not be something that the city would be asking its officers to do.

Commissioner Leppert stated that the officers would already be contributing out of their taxes.

Commissioner Thomas asked if any current public safety funds would be going toward this effort. The speaker indicated that they would not be defunding the police but will be discussing options. Would want this to not be part of the public safety budget because they want it to be separate.

Erin Beck then was able to get her computer unfrozen to share her powerpoint on Electric Aggregation. Her presentation then resumed. She explained group buying power to get competitive rates to power our homes and businesses using clean energy. This is a voluntary program. Residents can opt out and there is no fee for opting out. We would be the third largest aggregation in the country. www.cleanenergycolumbus.org is the website for additional information.

Commissioner Leppert asked what percentage would be clean energy initially when the program starts and how long it would take to be complete. Answer the city could do it 100% tomorrow through renewable energy credits. It would depend on where those credits would be purchased from. Commissioner Leppert indicated that she did not understand what the credits are and how they work. The answer is that it is still clean energy. On the website the agency that was selected provided this information. We can reach the goal by 2022.

Commissioner Weber asked about current choice and apple to apples program and how this adds to this choice. This would be the generation portion that currently residents can shop for. This program would be the city's aggregation program. Any resident could purchase energy on their own through current programs.

Samantha Schuler spoke about the ADAMH levy (Issue 24) which will be on the ballot in November. ADAMH provides mental health services – ie prevention, housing, youth programs, substance use issues etc. They partner with community agencies and ADAMH provides the funding. Last year they served over 135,000 individuals. Issue right now is a 14 million operating deficit. This is due to the rise in suicide, opiod addiction and the population growth in Franklin County. Current funding is set to expire and they have not asked for an increase in almost 30 years. Because it is expiring they need to renew it and then they are also requesting an increase. .065 increase and renewal of existing 2.2 levy.

Commissioner Leppert asked about the amounts for renewal and increase. The actual increase is .65 and not .065 per the earlier comment.

City liasons – Erin Gibbons was not present. Rebecca Deeds indicated that we discuss the Bylaws in October. She also made us aware that all terms must be 3 years.

Treasurer's Report. Current balance is 3,500.35.

Committee Reports

Zoning

Commissioner Endicott indicated that the Development commission table the application regarding the car lot on Trabue Road.

Applicant for demo permit in Grandview will be requesting a rezoning to commercial.

Next meeting will be October 15, 2020.

September 3, 2020 we heard an application for Woodspring Suites to have a sign that can be seen from the freeway. Tracey Diehl presented on behalf of the applicant.

Applicant took questions.

Commissioner Endicott asked about city comments regarding electronic message. Client has agreed to have a static message so as to comply with state law. Other issues will be changed to clarify and comply with other comments from the city.

Commissioner Endicott moved to recommend approval. Commissioner Russell seconded. Commissioner Leppert asked to clarify if we needed to get the changes updated first. Applicant indicated that the images would not change. The only change will be the static message and not electronic. The variance is for the height.

Commissioner Endicott indicated that the variance issue is still the same.

Commissioner Russell called for point of order

A vote was held as follows:

Commissioners Leppert, Thomas, Russell, Weber, Cabral, Cabus, Endicott, McKinley all voted in the affirmative.

Planning – Commissioner Weber

Next meeting is Tuesday October 13, 2020 at 7:00 pm. It will be virtual.

Commissioner Weber is still trying to get someone to update us from Hilltop Area Commission.

Vision Zero update given by Commissioner Cabral. Speaker spoke about eliminating roadway deaths and injuries while increasing mobility for all. This was the update from the recent meeting that was held.

City is accepting submission through mid-October. This includes any portion of Columbus. The website is <https://vision-zero-columbus.hub.arcgis.com/>

Commissioner Cabral emphasized the concerns surrounding bus stops in our area not being safe for pedestrians waiting on the buses.

Communications Committee

Commissioner Cabral indicated that they had a very short meeting. There are missing minutes still. The survey will end at the end of September. We are hopeful that we will get some good information from that. Jess is at the meeting and since the meeting a problem has arisen. We cannot send out emails to our entire list. They think someone marked our emails as spam causing our emails to be undeliverable. We are looking for someone to help us work through that issue. Mail Chimp has been suggested but have not explored costs yet. Jess indicated that our mailing list is about 200 people. The work around is to create a group. Probably not a long term solution. Jess will evaluate any option presented. Rebecca Deeds indicated that groups seems to be a work around through Gmail. She offered to confer with a coworker that is knowledgeable about tech issues. Zoom meetings are only free for 40 minutes. Commissioner McKinley advised that you just have to leave and come back into the same zoom meeting. They are still working on the commissioner's handbook. Commissioner Cabral asked if we need the Adobe program to put together the student handbook and commissioner's handbook. Commissioner Russell indicated that it isn't cost effective. Commissioner information has been updated on the website. Next meeting will be October 20, 2020.

Nominations Committee – Nothing to Report.

New Business

Training from this past Saturday was distributed by Commissioner Cabral from training that was put on by the city. She and Commissioner Weber attended the training. Commissioner McKinley asked all commissioners to review the information that was provided.

David Hooie indicated that he is available for any questions regarding open meetings or public records.

Commissioner McKinley indicated that she will circulate the public records pdf manual.

Commissioner Thomas indicated he will be deployed with the Air Force to Jordan for about six months next year. He was inquiring about how that would work.

Commissioner Russell moved to adjourn. Commissioner Cabus seconded.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.