



CITY CLERK DEPT
2019 JUL 10 PM12:46

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

May 20th, 2019 – 11:00 am
300 N. Campbell – CITY 1, Council Chambers

MINUTES

Members Present

Lance Lehr
Efren Montelongo
Joe Fierro
Donald Crawford
Todd Miller
Ed Fleming
Nathaniel Chaney
Bruce Biegel

Members Absent

Lynn Westbrook
Ian Hanna

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 11:00 am.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call:** *Quorum*

4. **Citizen Comment Period:** Paso Del Norte Borderplex Veterans Coalition George Whitmire presented two upcoming opportunities: Making El Paso veteran Ready Workshop; Kharisma James 5K run / 1-mile walk August 11th

- Discussion on obtaining a Memorandum of Understanding to obtain an partnership between the City of El Paso and the Coalition.

Onward to Opportunity presented by Laura Butler. Program consists of opportunities for transitioning Soldiers / Spouses and veterans for training and certification in the areas of Human Resources, Information Technology, Program Management and Six Sigma.

5. **Community Updates:** Strategic Plan 2020 tabled for next committee meeting

Department of Human Resources Nuri Valdez presented Veteran Employment initiatives.

- Discussion on 12.35% current City Veteran Employment rate.
- Discussion on Veterans Hiring Preference Points
- Discussion on outreach to Veterans through SFL-TAP (FT. Bliss), Volunteer opportunities, 20% interview rules to be added to software and NEOGOV application Changes

6. Discussion and Action to approve minutes of March 18th and April 22nd 2019: Minutes approved

7. Discussion and Action on Absent or Show VAAC Members: Motion and Second to approve Excused Absences from April 22nd –Efren Montelongo, Todd Miller, Joe Fierro, Donald Bruce Crawford

8. Discussion and Action: Report to City Council – July 9th, 2019.

- Discussion to hold a special Meeting on June 11th 9:00 am in order to prepare agenda items for City Council update scheduled for July 9th.

9. Discussion and Action on Voting in of Secretary: Ed Fleming voted in as Secretary.

10. Military Affairs Update:

- Discussion to formalize the Bridge Program
- Discussion about the success of the Ft. Bliss Transition Summit
- Discussion of the rebranding of the Division of Veteran and Military Affairs website. Will go live on June 14th, 2019.

11. Discussion and Action:

- Homeless Initiative: Number of City HUD / VASH vouchers requested by Lance Lehr.
 - Discussion from Camille Castillo of El Paso Coalition for the Homeless and Jose Orozco of American GI Forum discussed in detail zoning issues for Veteran shelters (Tiny Homes); Built for Zero and Functional Zero initiatives; Veterans by Name List; importance of City Leadership involvement
- Employment: Discussion on City Veterans Employment tax incentives for hiring and recruiting veterans.
- Marketing / Community Outreach: Discussion on branding Team Bliss and We hire Vets on multiple webpages within the city through city Public Information Office.

12. Discussion and Action on New Agenda Items: Discussion on adding veteran specific goals into the City Strategic Goals (Goals 1.6, 4.2, 5.1, 5.2 and Goal 6.)

- Discussion on the Texas Veterans Commission “Veterans Needs Assessment”
- Discussion on Veterans Spouse Employment. City funded.

- Discussion on more emphasis from City Leadership to attend Veteran and Military community events.
- Discussion on having the Chief Military Officer for the Division of Veteran and Military Affairs sit on the County Veterans Advisory Board.

13. Announcements: Bruce Biegel announced May 31st VA Townhall 3:00 PM.

14. Next VAAC Meeting: June 24th, 2019 11:00 am City Council Chambers

15. Adjourn: 12:03pm

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee of the City of El Paso may retire into EXECUTIVE SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the following: (The items listed below are matters of the sort routinely discussed in Executive Session, but the Veterans Affairs Advisory Community of the City of El Paso may move to Executive Session any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meeting Act.) The Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee will return to open session to take any final action and may also, at any time during the meeting, bring forward items for public discussion, as appropriate.

Section 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY

Section 551.072 DELIBERATIONS REGARDING REAL PROPERTY

Section 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS

Section 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Section 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES

Section 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEGOTIATIONS

Sign Language interpreters will be provided for this meeting upon request. Requests must be made to the Community Development department at phone number 915-212-1654 a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting. Copies of these Minutes will be provided in Braille, large print or audiotape upon request. Requests must be made a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the meeting.

POSTED THIS ____ DAY OF ____ AT ____ BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.