



CITY CLERK DEPT
2020 NOV 16 PM12:46

Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee

September 18, 2020 – 10:00 am
Virtual Meeting on Microsoft Teams

Live Streamed Via:

City's website. <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/videos>

Television on City15

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofelpasotx/videos>

MINUTES

Members Present

Lance Lehr
Bruce Biegel
Dean Sanders
Don Parrott
Justin Rotti
Hope Jackson

Members Absent

Reginald Daniel
Laura Butler

Unfilled Positions

District 1

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting Called to Order at 10:02 am.
2. **Roll Call:** *Quorum.*
3. **Citizen Comment Period:** No Comments presented
4. **Discussion and Action to approve minutes of August 21, 2020:** Minutes approved.
5. **Discussion and Action on No Show or Absent VAAC Members:**
 - Reginald Daniel District 4-Approved
 - Laura Butler District 5-Approved
6. **Discussion and action on whether a charter change is necessary for City Veterans hiring initiatives. (Update from city attorneys and HR).**

Discussion: Assistant City Attorney Oscar Gabaldon Jr. described the process required for a change to the City Charter. Interim Director of Human Resources, Claudia Lujan described that not all Cities have the same system of government and that is why some Cities are able to implement changes while other are not or need a different approach. Lance Lehr stated that the 20% Interview rule can be a “Goal” and not a mandate as long as it was a true faith effort to achieve 20%. Cecilia Mungaray explained the changes in the Hiring process that includes language changes on Job postings for minimum qualifications, identifying Veterans on the eligible list that hiring managers are provided, and developing the HR4Vets program to assist Veterans with employment. Dean Sanders would like to see a system that will hold a Director accountable for meeting the goal. Bruce Biegel asked for a timeline to implement the new HR procedures. Claudia Lujan explained that the City had NEO GOV change their software to identify Veterans. This has already been implemented. In time, data will be available but we must be cautious of an unfair advantage of one pool of people over another.

Action: Allow HR 6 Months to gather Employment Data that supports a Goal of 20% of the people on the eligible list for any job posting are Veterans. HR will report back to the VAAC with their findings.

7. Discussion and action on the resolution re-establishing the VAAC.

Discussion: Bring the Resolution to Council with or without changes to ensure the VAAC will not Sunset. Hope Jackson discussed that the term limits for VAAC members align with elected Council members. ACA Gabaldon advised that the Resolution can be extended and then changes can be made at a later date. The decision is on the Committee. Hope Jackson, Bruce Biegel would like to see term limits addressed in the Resolution. Hope Jackson would like to see the VAAC continue in perpetuity. ACA Gabaldon will look into the charter and provide an answer. Lance Lehr motioned that 8 years be added to the Sunset of the VAAC and align the terms with the City Council representatives that appointed the Committee members. Second by Bruce Biegel. Dean Sanders proposed that committee members should not be removed at the onset of a newly elected Council member. The Seat should be maintained from 90-180 days prior to the committee members removal. Don Parrot supports this idea. ACA Gabaldon recommends that the language must be “Shall be” not “May be”.

Action: Motion to extend the VAAC for 8 years. Term limits “shall” be 4- year terms with one possible extension of 4 years. Motion Passes unanimously

8. Discussion and action on updating VAAC By-Laws- Tabled for next month

9. Discussion and action on the Veterans Homeless PSH-

Discussion: CBDG Entitlement Funds are mandated through policy to require a funding match. The NOFA draft will be released to the VAAC for their Review. Hope Jackson would like to have the NOFA draft sent to the Coalition for the Homeless for their Review. Lance Lehr recognizes District 2 and District 4 Representatives for their help during Council to pass the Agenda item.

10. Discussion and Action: Sub Committee Chairs update on assigned focus areas.

Bruce Biegel – Employment – Discussed at Agenda Item 6

Hope Jackson – Homelessness – Discussed at Agenda Item 9

Marketing- Lance Lehr – Happy to hear the Military and Veteran Affairs section is a part of the development of Sun City Bliss.

11. Discussion: Update from El Paso County Veterans Advisory Board

Efren Montelongo discussed that the Veteran of the Year selection is still ongoing. Graduation for Veterans Treatment Court is September 30th. County Assistance for Veterans is still available for those needed. Directory has been updated. Facebook page is still active. Send information to be placed into the director to Efren or Carl Dwyer.

12. Division of Veteran and Military Affairs Update

Chief Military Officer - Funeral Service of WWII Julian Cortez on September 21. This Veteran has no family that will be present. Please attend if possible. Working on relocating the 1AD / FT. Bliss museum to off Installation. Presenting to City Council on September 29th. Topic will be an update on Veteran and Military Affairs.

13. Announcements- No Announcements

14. Next VAAC Meeting: October 16th, 2020 10:00 AM Virtual Meeting online.

15. Adjourn- 1035AM

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 Committee 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 16 DAY OF November AT 12:50PM BY PAUL ALBRIGHT.