



PERSONNEL ACTION COMMITTEE
Minutes for FEBRUARY 25, 2019
Meeting starting time - 6:20PM at City Hall

RECEIVED

FEB 26 2019

WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Committee Members: William Onyski (present), Brent Bean (not present), Cindy Harris, Chair (present)

Law Department asks us to note if anyone present is recording, audio, video or livestreaming this meeting – Westfield News Reporter stated he was doing a report on Bennett who is being appointed to Fire Commission.

Agenda Item #1:

The appointment of Richard W. Salois, 220 Russellville Road as an alternate member of the Planning Board for a term to expire the first Monday of February 2021, replacing the vacant position left by John Bowen who moved to the Ward 1 position.

VOTED 2-0 to recommend this reappointment.

Discussion:

Mr. Salois is a Mechanical Engineer who has been involved in building industrial plants all across the United States. While working for Cenvo (Stamford, CT) he was the Director of Engineering who provided support to 17 manufacturing facilities, including production equipment, support equipment and operations. He managed the Reengineering Center in Chicago.

He has been involved in big – big plants involving big problem he had to solve, big money to be watchful of, big machinery and big numbers of employees involved.

He had to manage design, construction, process improvement, overall manufacturing operations and work with local management to enhance operational effectiveness. Mr. Salois states that for his work he had to travel all the time, but now he is retired from that job and wants to get involved in helping our City to make it a great place to live.

Because of all his expertise and his professional background he is aware of zoning concerns and building set-ups and the necessary rules and parameters regarding buildings.

He further states he is acutely aware of questions on the quality of life issues and wants our City to have neighborhoods with great quality of life. He believes he can help on how to integrate industry and neighborhoods, all the while not stifling one or the other and the Planning Board can be that conduit. He is very familiar with following all the laws regarding setbacks and all other particulars this Board deals with.

Mr. Salois is a lifelong Westfield resident and is interested in being involved in our City's future.

Councilor Onyski stated Mr. Salois is at all Planning Board meetings.

Agenda Item #2:

The appointment of C.Lee Bennett, 57 Jaeger Drive as a member of the Fire Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021, replacing Carlo Bonavita, resigned.

VOTED 2-0 to recommend this reappointment.

Discussion:

Ms. Bennett's education, professional background and community service gives us an excellent choice for appointment to our Fire Commission.

She has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and attended the FBI National Academy.

With over 30 years of service, she retired from the Springfield Police Department, but then continued to be a consultant investigator for the Springfield Law Department, as well as being a police officer for the Town of Granville. In addition she is a Justice of the Peace, has taught many classes at the College level in regards to Constitutional Law, Criminal Justice, Ethical Decision Making, Internal Investigations – And at the Criminal Justice Training Academy Westfield Mass and the Springfield Police Academy in which she taught multiple courses on every aspect of Police Activity.

She is the author of articles on Police Organization and Women and Criminal Justice, as well as other related subjects.

From 1977 to retiring in 2013 she was part of the Springfield Police Department Honor Guard, and currently is part of the Western Mass CISM Team, is on the Hampden County Deputy Sherriff's Board, teaches as well as developed the Lean in to Leadership for Women course for incarcerated women, is on the Sisters of St. Joseph's Justice and Peace Committee – and has had multiple other associations with groups such as the Springfield College Search and Rescue Team, the Law Enforcement Association and YWCA, holding many positions in those community endeavors.

Over the course of being a police officer her association with Fire Departments naturally led her to having a great rapport with that sister/brother group, as well as having a brother who was a firefighter. She understands this related sector.

We thank her for her service. Councilor Onyski said "Thank you". The Chair also noted that Carlo Bonavita gave years of service and we thank him very much.

Agenda Item #3:

The reappointment of Patricia Steele-Perkins, 67 Forest Glen Drive as a member of the Westfield Cultural Council for a term to expire the first Monday of February 2020.

VOTED 2-0 to recommend this reappointment.

Discussion:

The Chair of the Westfield Cultural Council, Morgan Drowniany, states Mr. Steele-Perkins is extraordinarily dedicated and totally supports her reappointment.

Highlighting some of her many accomplishments, she is a member of the Westfield Athenaeum Board of Trustees who volunteered many hours working with the Renovation and Improvements of the library.

She also is on the Board of Directors of Grandmother's Garden, is a master gardener and volunteers much time in the Garden.

In addition, Ms. Steele-Perkins volunteers with the Red Cross.

Agenda Item #4:

The reappointment of Rebecca Blackburn, 225 Sackett Road as a member of the Westfield Cultural Council for a term to expire the first Monday of February 2022.

VOTED 2-0 to recommend this reappointment.

Discussion:

The Chair of the Westfield Cultural Council, Morgan Drewniany, states Ms. Blackburn has been this Council's secretary for the past two years and she is fabulous. She has been a member since 2015.

She is the Technology Librarian at the Westfield Athenaeum which includes hardware and software support, training, customer service and reference. Working at the Library puts her in direct contact with many Westfield citizens and activities and she enjoys being involved in them.

For 15 years she also has been associated with the Westfield YMCA in Administration and as an Instructor.

Agenda Item #5:

The reappointment of Jim Liptak, 515 Granville Road as a member of the Council on Aging for a term to expire on the first Monday of February 2022.

VOTED 2-0 to recommend this reappointment.

Discussion:

Mr. Liptak is a dedicated member of the Council on Aging Board of Directors since 2012. He served on the Highland Valley Elder Services Board of Directors representing the City of Westfield and has been acting as liaison to that organization for the Council on Aging Board for the past 6 years. He also serves on both the Highland Valley Elder Services Nutrition and Finance Committees. In Westfield, Highland Services provides nutritional services through the Home Delivery Meal Programs and the Senior Lunch Program at Westfield Middle School. Mr. Liptak updates the Council on Aging Board on all Highland Services and programs including case management, protective services and money management.

On the Council on Aging Board he has served as the Treasurer from May 2014 to 2018 and was elected Chair last year. He participates in many programs and activities and assists annually with Senior Center Event Day and is always willing to volunteer for special projects.

Director Tina Gorman (who herself, is extraordinary and such an asset to our City) states Mr. Liptak is always thoughtful and works hard as an advocate for Westfield's older population – and wholeheartedly supports and applauds his reappointment. Ms. Gorman truly values his judgement.

Councilor Onyski also reiterated, a great reappointment.

The minutes of 2/25/2019 were approved on a 2-0 vote on 2/25/2019.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31PM

Submitted by Cindy Harris, chair
2/26/19