



Personnel Action Committee

Minutes for 03/15/18 meeting at City Hall

Starting Time: 6:30 p.m.

Committee Members -- Ralph Figy (present), William Onyski (present), Cindy Harris, Chair (present).

The Law Dept. has requested that this Committee ask if anyone is recording, audio or video, or live streaming this meeting, if so, please state your name-----none.

Agenda Item #1

The reappointment of Matthew D. Barnes, 12 Eastview Drive as a member of the Water Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

Mayor Sullivan and Director of Public Works Billips have requested the reappointment of Mr. Barnes who was first appointed 05/01/2008. A valued and integral member of this Commission, he is extremely knowledgeable in this area and because of his length of service, has an historical base of information most valuable to our City.

He has a Master of Science Degree in Accounting and has been with Gary Olszewski and Company, Westfield, since 2005, as a Senior Accountant, thus understands finances which is extremely helpful for this Commission.

He is the Secretary for this Commission, been involved with the Finance Council at Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament Church, and active in the Cub Scout organization.

Agenda Item #2

The reappointment of Thomas H. Pereira, 150 Hillside Road, as a member of the Board of Public Works for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

First appointed in 2016 Mr. Pereira would like to continue serving on this Board and Mayor Sullivan and Director of Public Works have both recommended his reappointment. As previously presented two years ago, Mr. Pereira has been involved in education and competitive

coaching. As a teacher at schools including Springfield Public Schools, Frontier Regional School and Valley West School in Chicopee, he was involved with various subjects such as English and Science, taught many different grades which also included differently abled students. He has a soccer coaching background at the high school and college level. He has a B.S. in Regional Planning.

Agenda Item #3

The reappointment of Sara Unger, 24 Kane Brothers Circle, as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

Ms Unger has been on this Commission since 2006, also served as the Secretary for several years. Representing Ward 1, she has been on many subcommittees, including budget and land use, Hampton Ponds/Playground Revitalization, Signage and Facilities.

She is a Social Worker for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, has a B.S. in Social Work, and is very involved in Westfield Public School activities including PTO at Southampton Road School, Fundraising and school events at North Middle School, Westfield High School, Band Parents Organization and 2017 Chairperson of the Senior Banquet, Westfield Helps Its Public Schools Committee Co-Chairperson involved with arts and music festivals.

Mayor Sullivan and Director of Public Works Billips have both requested her reappointment and Westfield is fortunate to have her continued involvement on this Commission.

Agenda Item #4

The reappointment of Joseph B. Mitchell, 153 Munger Hill Road as the City Advancement Officer for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

Mayor Sullivan states that Mr. Mitchell's knowledge of economic development and his ability to collaborate with private, state and regional sectors is a genuine asset to our City. Mr. Mitchell's focus on marketing has led to over \$1 million in state grant money to advance the city's Turnpike Industrial Park project, which has the potential of generating \$120 million in private investment, potential of over 1000 jobs and \$1.3 million in annual revenue.

Mr. Mitchell has a B.S. in Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute – An Air Force Officer (awarded for heroism under fire in 1991), his knowledge in regards to the Airport's business expansion is extremely valuable. As the City's Advancement Officer since 2014 he also represents the Mayor at official engagements in the Mayor's absence. His involvement in the City's business development and project management is extensive and lucrative for our City.

He served on the Airport Commission and in Veterans Services from 2010 to 2014. He currently also serves as the Executive Director of the Westfield Redevelopment Authority, responsible for the implementation of our Urban Renewal plan to revitalize our downtown area. Very noteworthy also is his knowledge and experience in Environmental regulations, having been a Consultant with Environmental Compliance Services, which is extremely beneficial to our City while he pursues businesses to come here, being cognizant of Natural Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems Regulations, Underground Storage Tank Regulations, Mass. Petroleum Product Clean-Up Regulations, Storm Water Pollution Prevention Planning, Spill Prevention, and Mass. Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program, Clean Air Act, Asbestos Abatement.

Lastly, a program important to everyone is the Life Star Helicopter which has located here helping to save lives. Mr. Mitchell's involvement in this becoming a reality (along with Mr. Gonet at the Airport) says that in addition to this important and life-saving noble business, it will pay property taxes, and bring in 14 full time employees including pilots, medics and nurses.

The minutes for the meeting of 03/15/18 were approved on a 3-0 vote on 03/15/18.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Submitted by Cindy Harris, Chair 03/17/18.

