

April 04, 2024

Board Chambers

Veterans Commission

MINUTES

Members

Jesse J. Citizen
Dr. Vanessa M. Gattis
Nancy Jean-Louis
Donnell E. Johns, Sr.

Cheryl Lamar
Tim Parrish
Joshua Quill
Dean Woodard

Present: Commissioners Jesse J. Citizen, Vanessa Gattis, Donnell Johns Sr., Cheryl Lamar, Joshua Quill, and Dean Woodard; Director of Human Resources Joseph Gilkerson and Admin Stacy Anderson. BOCS Chair Deshundra Jefferson in attendance. Chair Vanessa Gattis called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of March 7, 2024, were approved (Quill-motion/Woodard-seconded/Unanimous).

Public Comment Time

- None

Administrative Remarks

- Discussed the upcoming Memorial Day Ceremony on May 24, 2024, at 9:00am. Commissioners Citizen and Woodard volunteered to lay the wreaths for the event.
- Joseph Gilkerson let the Commission know that the job fair went well and informed the commissioners that there was a table at the location for the V3 program. There were over 400 citizens in attendance and eight (8) employment offers were extended on site. There will be another job fair in September.

Work Session

- Michael and Tara Houston from the Houston Consulting Group presented information on their real estate school that assists Veterans and citizens in obtaining education.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Commissioners Time

- Commissioner Lamar – Discussed survivor benefits being cut for children of Veterans regarding the Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents Education Program (HB30). Let the Commission know that she will not be in attendance in May and June.
- Commissioner Johns – Let the Commission know that he attended the job fair. In the future he would like the Commission to have some literature and a tablecloth to show who they are and how to contact them. Let the Commission know he is working with Economic Development to do V3 meetings. On the 3rd Thursday of the month there will be a Veterans Connect event from 5-9pm in Stone Bridge.
- Commissioner Quill – Joined American Legion post 799 in Haymarket for a breakfast. Let the Commission know that the American Legion said they were all welcomed to join. Breakfast will take place every Thursday at 9:30am at Ihop. Congratulated the Commission on that the work that was done on the resolution for tax exemption which will be go to the Board on May 14th.
- Commissioner Citizen – Introduced himself to the Commission and gave some background on his history with the military. Thanked Chair Jefferson for appointing him to the Commission.
- Commissioner Gattis – Reminded the Commission that April is the month of the military child and thank the children that support military members while serving. Welcomed Commissioner Citizen to the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. (Quill-motion/Woodard-seconded/unanimous)