

June 06, 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, Nancy Jean-Louis, Donnell Johns Sr., Tim Parrish; Director of Human Resources Joseph Gilkerson and Admin Stacy Anderson. Chair Vanessa Gattis called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of April 4, 2024, were approved (Parrish-motion/Citizen-seconded/Unanimous).

Public Comment Time

- None

Administrative Remarks

- Joseph Gilkerson informed Commissioners that there were 28 hires as a result of the County Career Expo.
- Joseph Gilkerson reminded the Commission that there will not be a meeting in July due to the 4th of July holiday.

Work Session

- Phyllis Jennings, Tonya Golden, Alicia La Patra, and Dana Carey from the Department of Social Services attended the meeting virtually to discuss the Built for Zero program. This program focuses on ending Veteran homelessness in the County.

Old Business

- None.

New Business

- None.

Commissioners Time

- Commissioner Johns – Discussed the Virginia Military Survivors & Dependents (VMSD). Let the Commissioners know he is against this and would like to find a way to get this fixed and he would like the other Commissioners to help keep it the way it was.
- Commissioner Parrish – Let the Commission know that there is a taskforce meeting regarding VMSD on June 10th from 2pm – 5pm at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond and that he will be attending.
- Commissioner Jean-Louis – Discussed a memo the Army signed regarding reimbursement for qualified spouses that move to the area and need assistance with relicensing and qualified business costs. Wished the Army a happy birthday.
- Commissioner Citizen – Let the Commission know he will be reaching out to have Alexander Sellner or another representative attend an upcoming meeting to help the Commission understand what the Virginia Department of Workforce Development and Advancement can do for the Veterans in the County.
- Commissioner Gattis – Discussed her concerns regarding the VMSD changes. Let the Commission know that she met with Bob Snyder from OmniRide and discussed helping Veterans in the County with rides to their appointments and that they are willing to help, but they must be provided with the number of Veterans that are in need of a ride to the VA hospital. Bob Snyder offered to do a ride along with Commissioners sometime in the end of June.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm. (Parrish-motion/Citizen-seconded/unanimous)