

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

June 16, 2016 at 1:30 p.m.

City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Bridgeport City Hall Wheeler Rooms

MINUTES.

Commissioner Plummer called the Special Meeting of the Civil Service Commission to order at 1:44 p.m. Present were Commissioners Falberg, Emanuel and Rodgers; Personnel Director David Dunn; Clerk to the Commission Deborah Brelsford; Atty. John Mitola; Police Deputy Chief James Honis; Atty. Thomas Bucci, Mr. Jean Daniel Surin, Bridgeport Police Sgt. Tjuana Bradley-Webb, OIA; Mr. Rondell Jones, Bridgeport Police Sgt. Burke, Mr. Antoine Sistrunk, Ms. Dialma Perez, Bridgeport Police Sgt. Rivera, OIA; Mr. Gianni Capozziello, Mr. Murillo Pontes; Bridgeport Police Captain Roderick Porter; Mr. Michael Testani, Mr. James Denton

CALL TO ORDER.

Commissioner Plummer called the meeting to order at 1:44 p.m. A quorum was present.

1. The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Jean Daniel Surin regarding his disqualification based on habits and conduct from entry level Police Officer #2330 process. He is represented by Atty. Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Surin requested his appeal hearing be held in Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER EMANUEL MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Brelsford, Deputy Chief Honis, Atty. Mitola, Atty. Bucci and members of the Bridgeport OIA Department entered into Executive Session at 1:45 p.m. They returned to public session at 2:08 p.m.

**** COMMISSIONER PLUMMER ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE:**

COMMISSIONER RODGERS VOTED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER FALBERG VOTED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER EMANUEL VOTED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

**** THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY DENIED THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. JEAN DANIEL SURIN REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION**

BASED ON HABITS AND CONDUCT FROM ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER #2330 PROCESS.

2. The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Rondell Jones regarding his disqualification based on habits and conduct from entry level Police Officer #2330 process. He is represented by Atty. Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Jones requested that his hearing be held in public session.

Mr. Dunn reviewed the details of the background investigation and said that based on the outcome of the background investigation done by the Police Department, he had disqualified the candidate.

Sgt. Burke said that one of the questions had to do with any involvement in lawsuits. When the officer performed the background search, he discovered there was a pending lawsuit. Further investigation revealed another lawsuit. One of the written questions asked if he had ever been arrested. The written application indicates one answer, but the verbal answer was not the same.

Atty. Bucci said that this process was unfair to the candidate. Mr. Dunn objected and pointed out that the City holds appeal hearings but the other towns and cities do not. Atty. Bucci said that the only reason that the City holds the hearings is because it is mandated by the Charter since 1937.

Atty. Bucci pointed out that Mr. Jones had passed all the physical tests. He also objected to the inclusion of a statement in the letter that was part of the lawsuit that Mr. Jones has "been and will be permanently restricted and deprived of the usual pleasure, pursuit, diversions and recreation of life". Atty. Bucci said that Mr. Jones had not concealed the lawsuits since the information was available on the Internet. Atty. Bucci said that there was no drug use or criminal record. Atty. Mitola pointed out that the language was common boilerplate language used in legal documents.

Deputy Chief Honis said that his one concern was the failure to disclose the information.

Bridgeport Police Captain Porter came forward and said that he was coming to the Commission to recommend Mr. Jones. Captain Porter said that he is the supervisor for the School Security Guards. Mr. Jones is a lead security guard and the supervisor on site at the school where he is assigned. There have been a number of times when the security guard has been able to mediate incidents or give the police tips about various serious crimes. Captain Porter said that he believed Mr. Jones deserves to be allowed to proceed. There are some recruits who pass all the tests and end up not being good candidates for police officers.

Mr. Michael Testani came forward and said he worked for the Board of Education. He said that he had offered to come in as a character witness. The administration at the school where Mr. Jones is assigned has leaned on Mr. Jones for support. Mr. Testani said that he felt that Mr. Jones would engage with the community. He is definitely a young man of high quality.

Mr. James Denton, the Supervisor of the School Security, came forward and agreed with all the comments that had already been spoken. Mr. Denton said Mr. Jones is dependable, reliable and trustworthy. He knows the feel of the building. This is the first year that there has not been a bomb threat at the school where Mr. Jones is assigned.

Mr. Jones said that he was born and raised in Bridgeport. After losing both parents before the age of 15, he experienced the struggles of growing up. He said that he had been told by his supervisors to tell the truth. He explained that he thought he had and he was not making an attempt to deceive.

Sgt. Bradley-Webb came forward and said that she would like clarify some issues. Mr. Dunn noted for the record that Capt. Garcia was not able to attend the hearing. Sgt. Bradley-Webb said that the written questionnaire is done first and then there are verbal interviews, which is the second chance to be truthful. Captain Porter pointed out that the candidate had passed the polygraph but the issue regarding lawsuits had not been disclosed.

**** COMMISSIONER PLUMMER ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE:**

**COMMISSIONER RODGERS VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.
COMMISSIONER FALBERG VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.
COMMISSIONER EMANUEL VOTED TO DENY THE APPEAL.**

**** THE COMMISSION GRANTED THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. RONDELL JONES REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION BASED ON HABITS AND CONDUCT FROM ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER #2330 PROCESS WITH TWO IN FAVOR (RODGERS AND FALBERG) AND ONE AGAINST (EMANUEL).**

RECESS

Commissioner Plummer called at recess at 2:52 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

3. The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Antoine Sistrunk regarding his disqualification based on habits and conduct from entry level Police Officer #2330 process. He is represented by Atty. Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Sistrunk stated that he would like a public hearing. Atty. Bucci requested at recess because he had just received a document from OIA that he had never seen before.

RECESS

Commissioner Plummer announced a recess at 3:04 p.m. He reconvened the meeting at 3:14 p.m.

Mr. Dunn informed the Commissioners that Atty. Bucci had requested that this matter be continued in light his just having received the blank POST (Police Officer Standards and Training) application form.

**** COMMISSIONER EMANUEL MOVED TO TABLE THE REQUEST FOR AN APPEAL FROM MR. ANTOINE SISTRUNK REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION BASED ON HABITS AND CONDUCT FROM ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER #2330 PROCESS TO THE NEXT AVAILABLE APPEAL HEARING.**

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Ms. Dialma Perez regarding her disqualification based on habits and conduct from entry level Police Officer #2330 process. She is represented by Atty. Thomas Bucci.

Ms. Perez requested her hearing be held in Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER EMANUEL MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Brelsford, Deputy Chief Honis, Atty. Mitola, Atty. Bucci and members of the Bridgeport OIA Department entered into Executive Session at 3:19 p.m. They returned to public session at 3:51 p.m.

**** COMMISSIONER PLUMMER ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE:**

COMMISSIONER RODGERS VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER FALBERG VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER EMANUEL VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

**** THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY GRANTED THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MS. DIALMA PEREZ REGARDING HER DISQUALIFICATION BASED**

ON HABITS AND CONDUCT FROM ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER #2330 PROCESS.

5. The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Gianni Capozziello regarding his disqualification based on habits and conduct from entry level Police Officer #2330 process. He is represented by Atty. Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Capozziello requested his appeal hearing be held in Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER EMANUEL MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** COMMISSIONER FALBERG SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Brelsford, Deputy Chief Honis, Atty. Mitola, Atty. Bucci and members of the Bridgeport OIA Department entered into Executive Session at 3:55 p.m. They returned to public session at 4:19 p.m.

**** COMMISSIONER PLUMMER ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE:**

COMMISSIONER RODGERS VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER FALBERG VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER EMANUEL VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

**** THE COMMISSION UNANIMOUSLY GRANTED THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. GIANNI CAPOZZIELLO REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION BASED ON HABITS AND CONDUCT FROM ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER #2330.**

RECESS.

Commissioner Plummer declared a recess at 4:19 p.m.

Commissioner Falberg left the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Commissioner Plummer reconvened the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

6. The Commission has received a request for an appeal from Mr. Murillo Pontes regarding his disqualification based on habits and conduct from entry level Police Officer #2330 process. He is represented by Atty. Thomas Bucci.

Mr. Pontes requested his appeal hearing be held in Executive Session.

**** COMMISSIONER EMANUEL MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Commissioners, Mr. Dunn, Ms. Brelsford, Deputy Chief Honis, Atty. Mitola, Atty. Bucci and members of the Bridgeport OIA Department entered into Executive Session at 4:25 p.m. They returned to public session at 4:45 p.m.

**** COMMISSIONER PLUMMER ASKED THE COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE:**

COMMISSIONER RODGERS VOTED TO GRANT THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER EMANUEL VOTED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

COMMISSIONER PLUMMER VOTED TO DENY THE APPEAL.

**** THE COMMISSION DENIED THE APPEAL REQUEST FROM MR. MURILLO PONTES REGARDING HIS DISQUALIFICATION BASED ON HABITS AND CONDUCT FROM ENTRY LEVEL POLICE OFFICER #2330 PROCESS.**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COMMISSIONER EMANUEL MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** COMMISSIONER RODGERS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services