

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Minutes - Tuesday, April 5, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Wheeler Rooms A & B, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Commissioner Guedes called the special meeting of the Civil Service Commission to order at 2:08 p.m. Present were Commissioners Rodgers, McBride, Correa and Plummer. Also present were Personnel Director David Dunn and Clerk to the Commission Deborah Brelsford. City Attorney Betsy Edwards was also in attendance, as well as members of the City of Bridgeport Police Department: Police Chief Joseph Gaudett and Sgt. John Andrews from Office of Internal Affairs.

Executive Session was entered at 2:09 p.m. in order for Mr. Dunn to update the Commissioners regarding the upcoming class of candidates ready to enter to the Police Academy. A tentative date of April 25, 2011 is set for the first day of the Academy. The Commission returned to Public Session at 2:27 p.m. Mr. Dunn amended the agenda to include Mr. Vladimir Louverture's matter since two (2) late requests to table were made by Mr. Antignani and Attorney Young on behalf of Mr. Accettullo.

1. John Antignani – Appeal – TABLED TO MAY 10, 2011

Mr. Dunn stated that Mr. John Antignani requested his hearing be tabled. Commission Guedes stated that he would not be granted another postponement after the May 10, 2011 because he has now requested his hearing be tabled three (3) times. On a motion made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers, the Commission unanimously granted the request to table Mr. Antignani's appeal to May 10, 2011.

2. Felipe Accettullo - Appeal – TABLED TO MAY 10, 2011

Mr. Dunn explained that a request was made by Mr. Accettullo's legal counsel, Christian Young from the Law Office of Attorney John R. Gulash, for more time to become familiar with Mr. Accettullo and his matter. On a motion made by Commissioner Plummer and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers, the Commission unanimously granted the tabling of Mr. Accettullo's appeal.

3. Vladimir Louverture – Appeal - GRANTED

Mr. Dunn explained that Mr. Louverture did not appear for an appointment made for him at St. Vincent's Immediate Care and consequently, Mr. Dunn disqualified him from the hiring process. He explained that at the last minute, Mr. Louverture was able to come to today's meeting and Mr. Dunn introduced Mr. Louverture to the Commissioners. Mr. Louverture explained in great detail the problems he has had with receiving mail and how he discussed this with the supervisor at his Post Office, who confirmed that this is not the first time there have been problems with mail being misrouted. On a motion made by Commissioner Correa and seconded by Commissioner McBride, Mr. Louverture's appeal was unanimously granted and Sgt. John Andrews escorted Mr. Louverture to City Hall Annex to participate in the OIA Orientation that had just begun.

A discussion continued about using e-mail for correspondence because it was faster and there is a "read receipt" function for proof of delivery. City Attorney Betsy Edwards explained that U.S.P.S. mail is presumed received and the burden of proof falls on the person the mail was sent to. Mr. Dunn explained that the office sends a great deal of mail via certified mail return receipt requested, however, this is costly.

Mr. Dunn reviewed an updated spreadsheet regarding the top 25 candidates, prepared by A/Personnel Assistant II Lisa Kollman, which reflected gender, ethnicity, and residency. Mr. Dunn received information from Mr. Jim Hutt, psychometrician, about self-reporting ethnicity and the EOE laws. Commissioner McBride requested a list of disqualified candidates that did not request appeals. Mr. Dunn would have this by the next monthly meeting.

4. Thomas Niedermeier – Appeal – DENIED

Mr. Niedermeier was represented by Attorney Jesse Langer of Cohen and Wolf. Commissioner Guedes asked Mr. Niedermeier if he requested a private or public session. He requested private. The Commission entered Executive Session at 2:55 p.m. The Commission returned to Public Session at 3:15 p.m. Commissioners Correa, McBride, and Rodgers voted to deny the appeal of Mr. Niedermeier and Commissioner Plummer voted to grant the appeal. Accordingly, Mr. Niedermeier's appeal was denied regarding his disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct.

5. Clinton Jarvis, Jr. – Appeal – GRANTED

Commissioner Guedes asked Mr. Jarvis if he requested a private or public session. He requested a private session. The Commission entered Executive Session at 3:20 p.m. The Commission returned to Public Session at 3:36 p.m. Commissioners Rodgers, McBride, Plummer, and Correa each voted to unanimously grant the appeal of Mr. Jarvis, regarding his disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct.

6. Joanna Woznik – Appeal – GRANTED

Mr. Dunn introduced Joanna Woznik and her legal counsel, Attorney Thomas Bucci, to the Commission. Commissioner Guedes asked Ms. Woznik if she requested a private or public session. On his client's behalf, Attorney Bucci requested an Executive Session. The Commission entered Executive Session at 3:43 p.m. The Commission returned to Public Session at 4:10 p.m. Commissioners Rodgers, McBride, Plummer and Correa each voted to unanimously grant the appeal of Ms. Woznik, regarding her disqualification from Police Officer #2302 for habits and conduct.

Chief Gaudett told the Commissioners that he was very excited about the upcoming class of police officers and that this is his first time through the process as Chief of Police.

On a motion made by Commissioner McBride and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers the special meeting of the Civil Service Commission was adjourned at 4:17 p.m.