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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Personnel Action Committee
Minutes for 08/22/16 meeting
Starting Time – 6:20 p.m.

Committee members – Ralph Figy (present), William Onyski (present), Cindy Harris, Chair (present)

Agenda Item #1

The appointment of Susan Carmichael, 12 Alice Burke Way#509, as a member of the Westfield Housing Authority, for a term to expire the first Monday of June 2018, replacing Richard Meyer deceased.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that appointment.

Discussion:

Ms. Carmichael jumped at the opportunity to be a part of the Housing Authority Board because she found it as a way to give back the Housing Authority and her fellow seniors.

She enjoys spending time in the Community Room with her fellow tenants and seniors discussing life and watching game shows.

She also enjoys spending time with her grandchildren, bowling, bingo as well as playing solitaire on the IPod.

Ms. Carmichael has been a hard worker since her teen years, working in a variety of industries over the decades.

She is looking forward to getting involved and being part of the Board—and looks at it as a new chapter in her life.

Agenda Item #2: Committee's Process of Providing Background Information on Appointments/Reappointments

Voted 3-0 to maintain process.

Discussion:

The Personnel Action Committee responds to the Mayor's request for appointments and reappointments in an extremely timely and professional manner.

Both Mayor Knapik and Mayor Sullivan continually have sent in the names of wonderful citizens to serve on committees and commissions and referred extremely qualified individuals to work in City Hall as new appointments and to continue on as reappointments.

Westfield's City Charter sets this legal process out. The Mayor submits a name (and many times it includes resumes on new appointments). The PAC then through their diligent attention provides the entire Council with what we believe is enough information for every Councilor to vote on this individual in an intelligent manner. Councilors, as well as the public, may attend the Personnel Action meetings.

Last year Mayor Sullivan, then Councilor Sullivan, told the Council that in all his years he had served he had never seen such thorough research and preparation and delivery of information on appointments and reappointments as the current PAC.

At the Council's June meeting Councilor Flaherty said that the information PAC delivers regarding appointments/reappointments truly helps all Councilors in decisions on voting and gives insight into the totality of these people, many of whom just want to give back to their community. President Bean kept the PAC intact with Councilor Onyski replacing Councilor Sullivan and I'm sure he approves of PAC's performance.

I'm sharing this with you because Councilor O'Connell has involved all of you by requesting PAC send resumes on all appointments and reappointments to all Councilors, thus implying that PAC is not providing sufficient information. The Chair has concluded and the Committee agrees that this is not attainable. Some have resumes, some don't, most of our committee appointments are only required to fill out a form, much of PAC's preparation even now can go right up until the day of the Council's meeting—sometimes having 10 appointments in a 2 week span.

Councilors Figy, Onyski, and myself will continue to provide you with information as PAC currently does. I hope the Councilor will reflect and come to the conclusion, as other Councilors have, that they are provided with sufficient information. The law department states the Councilor would have to make a motion and the Council would have to vote on it to support her idea. She is extremely knowledgeable on Council proceedings, thus aware of this process. If that went forward, long delays in the appointments would be the result.

All Councilors want the finest working for our City in any capacity—and so does the Mayor. The list of Westfield's fantastic volunteers and employees is long.

The PAC thanks the many Councilors who support our serious efforts and respectfully hope Councilor O'Connell will conclude, that indeed, enough information is provided to the Council.

08/22/16 voted 3-0 to approve minutes for 08/22/16.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Cindy Harris, Chair, Personnel Action Committee 08/23/16.