

**ADOPTED MINUTES OF THE
GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL
January 25, 2024**

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 6:00 PM. The meeting was held in Conference Room 337, located on the third floor of City Hall. Members absent denoted by x.

John Porter- Acee-*
George Cherry-*
Logan Harrison-x
Antonio Milton-*
Tyrone Walston-x

Zykeiah Allen-x
Todd Fraley-*
Camilya Jones-*
Franchine Peña-*

Deninisa Allsbrook-*
Tyleik Harris-*
Francisco Limon-*
Procopio Serrano-*

Portia Willis, City Council Liaison-* Cassandra Daniels, Staff Liaison-*

Others: Jessica Williams, Pitt County Human Relations Commission Representative

Vice-Chair Franchine Philpot Peña called the meeting to order and **Ms. Cassandra Daniels, staff liaison**, called the roll and quorum was ascertained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion was made by Mr. Francisco Limon, seconded by Mr. Procopio Serrano, to approve the November 30, 2023, minutes with the necessary correction, if there be any. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Annual Award Ceremony - Update

Staff reported the Annual Award Ceremony will take place Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 5:30 pm. The event will take place at the Greenville Convention Center. Staff suggested the nomination deadline is extended to Thursday, February 8th at 11:59 PM.

City Council Member Portia Willis asked about marketing and if the event was via invite only. Staff stated the event is advertised on City social media sites, by word-of-mouth and on member social media sites. The event is not by invitation only and is open to the public, at no cost. The program format is opening remarks, entertainment, award recipients are announced, and the reception is buffet style. Total length of the event is 45 minutes to an hour. After much discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Francisco Limon, seconded by Mr. Todd Fraley, to extend the deadline to Thursday, February 8th at 11:59 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

February Meeting

In order to prepare for the award ceremony, staff reminded the Council of the rescheduling of the February 25th meeting to February 15th. The Award Subcommittee will meet prior to the regular meeting at 5:00 pm to discuss and make decisions on the nominations.

Leadership Meetings

Leadership Meetings were implemented in 2021 with the Mayor and City Manager. The purpose is to provide the following: (1) an exchange of information and ideas; (2) to collaborate and share information and concerns for the betterment of Greenville; (3) to include and involve diverse individuals with different backgrounds, perspectives, and educational backgrounds for holistic resolutions regarding our community; (4) for the Human Relations Council to make recommendations on community concerns and issues; and (5) for the Human Relations Council to receive advice and direction from management. Staff is currently working with the Office of the City Manager and City Clerk and hope the first meeting will take place soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Juneteenth Celebration

Staff stated Juneteenth events will take place on Wednesday, June 19th and Saturday, June 22nd. The June 22nd event is a collaboration between the city, the West Greenville Health Council, and other community organizations. The Human Relations Council and the Youth Council are responsible for helping to identify age-appropriate activities for the event. An HBCU Drumline was presented. Members stated liked the idea. However, everyone believes a major drawback for getting a drumline is that Juneteenth is in the summer, which is the time when many college students return home. Council Member, Tyleik Harris suggested a fashion runway at the previous meeting. Staff stated the Fashion Club at ECU had been contacted and hopefully, they will confirm their availability soon.

New Members Orientation

Orientation for new members will take place Thursday, March 28th at 5:30 pm. Orientation will take place 30 minutes prior to the Council's regular meeting.

Fair Housing Month

Staff informed the Council that Fair Housing Month is in April. The fair housing seminar is scheduled for Thursday, April 18th at the Greenville Hilton. The seminar is being sponsored by the City and the Greenville Area Property Managers Association (GAPMA). GAPMA, pay for half the food and the attorney (if one is invited to present). The city covers the cost of half the food. Members of the North Carolina Human Relations Commission, Fair Housing Division, has always presented at the seminar(s) and will assist this year. There is no cost for their service. The City and their partners have sponsored seminars for property managers/landlords and tenant. However, prior to COVID, it has been a challenge getting tenants to participate. Those who want to attend are faced with many day-to-day hardships, such as, lack of transportation and no childcare service.

Council Member Deninisa Allsbrook asked about HUD certification for first-time homebuyers. Staff stated prior to 2024, the Greenville Housing Authority offered homebuyers workshops monthly on the third Saturday. Those classes are no longer available here in Greenville. The nearest HUD Certification office is in Rocky Mount and/or Goldsboro.

Election of Officers

Staff stated Vice-Chair Franchine Philpot Peña and Council Member Procopio Serrano was contacted earlier about their availability to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair and they agreed to do so. Staff declared all offices vacant and asked for a motion. John Porter-Acee, made a motion, seconded by Antonio Milton, that the slate of names be accepted as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Human Relations Council. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by John Porter-Acee, seconded by Tyleik Harris, to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Daniels

Cassandra Daniels
Human Relations Officer