

# ADOPTED MINUTES OF THE GREENVILLE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

October 24, 2024

The Greenville Human Relations Council (GHRC) met Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> 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-x	Monisha Atkinson-*	Teena Barnes-*
George Cherry-x	Anitra Cook-*	Todd Fraley-*
Tyleik Harris-x	Rebecca Houston-*	Camilya
Jones-x	Francisco Limon-*	Duncan Patrick-*
Juan Paz-*		
Franchine Peña-*	Thomas Remington-*	Procopio
Serrano-*	Tyrone Walston-x	Dajon Williams-*

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

**Chairperson Franchine Peña** called the meeting to order and **Cassandra Daniels, staff liaison**, called the roll and quorum was ascertained.

**WELCOME:** The new members were introduced and welcomed by the Council; and we look forward to working with them.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** A motion was made by Procopio Serrano, seconded by George Cherry, Jr. to approve the June 27, 2024, minutes with any corrections if there be any. Motion carried unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Inclusive Community Breakfast - Feedback

Chairperson Franchine Peña stated the breakfast was good. Presenter Pam Strickland provided pivotal and essential information about Human Trafficking and the I-95 corridor to North Carolina. This was evident by the numerous questions asked by the attendees. Both resource tables went well. Also, the gift basket drawings were a hit since everyone enjoys receiving a free gift.

### November and December Meetings

A motion was made by Thomas Remington, seconded by Todd Fraley, to reschedule the November and December meetings to:

- Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup>
- Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>

Motion carried unanimously.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon

Staff stated the holiday luncheon had been a successful event prior to COVID. After returning

from COVID, the momentum, as well as the dynamics has changed. In the past, a senior member of the community had been the presenter. Chairperson Franchine Peña, Mr. Todd Fraley and Mr. Thomas Remington spoke about how receptive the seniors are when they are included and shown love by people in the community. The event is filled with the sounds of laughter and karaoke singing from our seniors. Others stated the importance of making sure our seniors realize they are not forgotten at any time, and especially during the holiday season. Vice-Chair Serrano stated it would be practical to collaborate with Pitt County Council on Aging and the event is reassessed for next year. It was suggested that staff contact and meet with Pitt County Council on Aging and Pitt County Sheriff's Office to determine if the City could establish a partnership with them for this year's event. A motion was made by Thomas Remington, seconded by Teena Barnes, that the Council partner with Pitt County Council on Aging and Pitt County Sheriff's Office for the Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon and the Council also reassess how to serve our senior citizens moving forward. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Strategic Planning Session – Date/Time**

It was suggested that the Council consider having two sessions with the first taking place at the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Council will need a facilitator. After much discussion regarding the Strategic Plan and securing a facilitator, a motion was not made for the first session of the Strategic Plan to be held at the Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Action Plan (Remaining Initiatives 2024-2025 Fiscal Year) – Date/Time**

The Council was presented a list of remaining initiatives for this fiscal year. City Council Member Portia Willis stated these initiatives are not set in stone and it's up to the Council to decide what initiatives they would like to set for the 2025 fiscal year. After much discussion, the Council decided the November 21<sup>st</sup> agenda will consist of the following items:

- Annual Award Ceremony and Reception – Saturday, February 22, 2025
- Nominations for Award Ceremony and Reception
- Fair Housing Initiative- - April 2025
- Senior Citizens Holiday Luncheon -
- Community Dialogue – (no definitive dates)

Regarding nominations for the award ceremony and reception, it was suggested the nomination form is opened by IT on November 1<sup>st</sup>. A motion was made by Monisha Atkinson, seconded by Patrick Duncan, to open the nomination form on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion carried unanimously.

### **HRC Statement**

Members of the Council discussed writing a positive statement, nothing political or controversial, but a message about building bridges, unifying the community as it relates to seeing the humanity in each other. Assistant City Manager, Attorney Dene' Alexander, informed the Council that such a statement will need approval from the City Manager's Office (management staff) and City Council. In addition, Attorney Dene' Alexander also stated that people interpret things differently and any statement that does not reflect positively on the city will not be released. After much discussion, a motion was made by Francisco Limon, seconded by George Cherry, Jr. that a subcommittee is created for the purpose of writing a "unifying" message for building positive bridges/relations in the community.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. George Cherry, Jr., seconded by Vice-Chair Procopio Serrano to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cassandra Daniels*

Cassandra Daniels  
Human Relations Officer