

**BOARD OF MAYOR AND COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2020
12 P.M.
VIA ZOOM**

MINUTES

Members Present: Jonathan Elmore, Mayor
Brian Fisher, Mayor Pro Tem
Lisa Shortell, Commissioner
Lionel Laratte, Commissioner
Dee Merriam, Commissioner

Staff Present: Patrick Bryant, City Manager
Paul Hanebuth, Asst. City Manager
Rebecca Long, Communications Manager
Gina Hill, City Clerk

Item #1 Meeting Called to Order

Item #2 Adoption of Agenda
No motions made

Mayor Elmore started by saying Avondale Estates is a great community but that it's good to have outside consultants evaluate policies and procedures occasionally to help the city constantly improve. City Manager Bryant gave an introduction to the meeting and why it was being held. He introduced Allan Branson and Dawn Diedrich, consultants on police matters. Mr. Bryant added that Mr. Branson was no longer available to contract with the city but that he was happy to help the BOMC determine goals. He also touched on the accreditation process the police department is currently going through.

Item #3 **Discussion with Consultant about Reviewing Police Department Policies & Procedures**

Allan Branson emphasized the need to take concerted efforts to engage the public. He said many police complains stem from the public being unaware of their policies and procedures. Mr. Branson talked about diversity training and asked what issues the city was having with complaints from the public. Mayor Elmore responded which led to discussion about dash and body cameras. Mayor Pro Tem Fisher explained the disparity between the race of residents and that of many travelers through the city and how that affects traffic ticketing. Mr. Branson noted that it's important to be open and transparent while not

alienating the police. Talk turned to long-term goals and the process for citizens wanting to lodge a complaint. Mr. Branson said an avenue for redress should be a long-term goal. The group also discussed the idea of a citizen review committee. Members of the BOMC made comments and asked questions of Mr. Branson and city staff.

Item #4

Interview Candidate to Review Police Department Policies & Procedures

Ms. Diedrich told the group about her background. There was discussion about conducting a survey of residents about their satisfaction with the police. Ms. Diedrich talked about perceptions and building trust and community. She talked about accreditation as well. Pointing out the importance of having people of color involved in this project, Ms. Diedrich said she has a close working relationship with a GBI employee that could help her. Members of the BOMC took turns asking questions of Ms. Diedrich. She encouraged the BOMC to change the way they define neighbors and look at issuing warnings instead of citations in some situations. Ms. Diedrich offered that LaGrange and Decatur were two cities that had progressive policing. Mayor Elmore asked Ms. Diedrich her thoughts on 21st Century Policing and other newer initiatives. Discussion started about a citizen review committee, something Ms. Diedrich was not generally in favor of. Assistant City Manager noted that the police recently started recording every traffic stop. He added there is a link on the city website for police complaints. Ms. Diedrich commented that unlike Dr. Branson, she did feel like training could change people. Mr. Elmore asked about timeline should Ms. Diedrich be the city's consultant. She felt it could take up to a year but was comfortable being hired to do less than that. City Manager Bryant suggested the next step should be for the BOMC to decide what scope it wanted to pursue. Mr. Elmore said any further questions should be posed to Mr. Bryant.

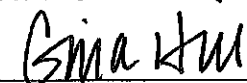
Item #5

Adjournment
No motions made

APPROVED THIS 29th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020


Jonathan Elmore, Mayor

ATTEST:


Gina Hill, City Clerk