



CITY OF OAK HILL

SPECIAL MEETING

5:00 P.M. – COMMISSION CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

JULY 18, 2011

MINUTES

A. OPENING

Present at Roll Call: Mayor Mary Lee Cook, Vice Mayor Linda Hyatt, Commissioners Ron Engele, Kathy Bittle, and Douglas Gibson.

B. DISCUSSION AND DECISION OF THE PERSONNEL BOARD'S RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SERGEANT MANUEL PEREZ

Laura Goodearly, City Clerk, explained that the General Release statement that was requested by the personnel board has been signed and received.

Commissioner Gibson asked question to Chief Young in regards to the steps she took to do her IA on Sergeant Perez's case. Commissioner Gibson is upset that no reprimand was given about the misuse of the DAVID SYSTEM.

C. DISCUSSION AND DECISION REGARDING THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Mayor Cook expressed her concerns on the turnover that is happening in the police department. She asked that the commission make a change in the Police Department by replacing the Chief or placing her on administrative leave.

Commissioner Gibson stated that people are talking about what they are reading on the internet in regards to the allegations that have been stated by Sergeant Perez. Commissioner Gibson is concerned that the city has spent a lot of funds putting staff on administrative leave with pay. Commissioner Gibson feels that it is hard to find a solution but believes that the Charter should be changed to allow the Chief of Police to have the power to hire and fire within the Police Department.

Chief, Diane Young stated that she felt that the City Attorney should have been at the last Personnel Board Meeting; having the attorney there could have helped in regards to the allegations and rumors that have appeared on the internet and at the Personnel Board Meeting. Chief Young stated that she should have the support of the commission, and by changing the Charter to allow the Chief to hire and fire staff would give her ability to have more control in the running of the Police Department.

Commissioner Engele asked if the commission would consider going to the sheriff department. Commissioner Bittle felt that this is not helping the city to move forward and that she is against going with the Sheriff Department. Commissioner Gibson feels that option is bad for the city in regards to the response time. Commissioner Gibson stated his disappointment in regards to Mr.

Liquori's report. Commissioner Engele stated that there is a lot of friction among staff in the Police Department and this is bringing down morale and that needs to get under control.

Commissioner Hyatt feels that the Charter should be changed, giving the Chief the Power to hire and fire.


D. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Jimmy Goodrich, Jeff Bracy, and Mike Arman of the Personnel Board stated their concerns on the way the minutes were written and what was told to the commission of the boards recommendation. Along with the Personnel Board Members other citizens stated their concerns that some statements were false and that changes need to be made by giving the Chief more power in running the Police Department.

A motion was made by Commissioner Engele and seconded by Vice Mayor Hyatt to find a cost and a time frame to change the Charter to Allow the Chief the power to hire and fire within the department only. Roll Call Vote: Mayor Cook, Yes; Commissioner Bittle, Yes; Vice Mayor Hyatt, Yes; Commissioner Engele, Yes; Commissioner Gibson, Yes. The motion carried 5-0

E. COMMENTS/CONCERNS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

F. ADJOURNMENT 8:00pm




MARY LEE COOK, MAYOR

ATTEST:



KOHN EVANS, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

APPROVED FOR LEGALITY AND FORM:



SCOTT E. SIMPSON, CITY ATTORNEY

Note: In accordance with Resolution 2006-17, a three (3) minute time limitation per speaker will be imposed. A speaker may address the Commission for a maximum of three (3) minutes during the Public Participation portion of the meeting, and for a maximum of three (3) minutes during any specific Agenda topic. Pursuant to Florida Statute 166.041 (3) (A), if an individual decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, that individual will need a record of the proceedings and will need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made.