

City of Gahanna

*200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 6, 2010

6:30 PM

City Hall Committee Rooms

Civil Service Commission

*Paul Leithart, Chairman
David Schroeder, Vice Chair
Katharine Essex
Stephen Renner
Judith Glenn*

Donna L. Jernigan, MMC, Sr. Deputy Clerk of Council

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The Gahanna Civil Service Commission met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at Gahanna City Hall, 200 South Hamilton Road, Gahanna, Ohio. Vice Chairman David Schroeder called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. Agenda for this meeting was published on March 31, 2010.

Members Absent: Paul Leithart

Members Present: David Schroeder, Katharine Essex, Stephen Renner and Judith Glenn

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

Isobel Sherwood, Kristen Treadway, Deputy Chief Ken Bell.

2. ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting March 2, 2010

A motion was made by Essex, seconded by Glenn, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010 Regular Meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes 4 Schroeder, Essex, Renner and Glenn

Absent 1 Leithart

4. HEARING OF VISITORS

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2010-0016

Status of Civil Service Rules & Regulations Changes.

Schroeder asked for discussion on letter from the Mayor concerning response to the proposed rules. We do have copy of the rules that were given to Council; also received a memo of needed corrections/typos to those rules from Sherwood.

Glenn said she would like to go over a couple of things for history and clarification; in the first paragraph, last sentence, what is the precedent set with the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals? Sherwood said in a charter change 15 years ago variances were given to BZA to hear to take some of the work off of Planning Commission, then 10 years ago there was a charter change and they were given back to Planning.

Essex said this whole process has been confusing for us; at this point, because we prepared a recommendation based on what is in the charter for civil service, I feel what the Mayor is proposing is contrary to the charter; if Council wants to accept the Mayor's proposal they would have to go for a charter change to make the changes; so where are we; waiting for Council.

Schroeder said the Mayor's memo was addressed to Council members after we submitted the rules to Council; unless I'm not aware of a document, we have not heard back through official channels as to what, if any action they are taking on our recommendation of changes to the rules. Sherwood said it is her understanding that it has been postponed by Council until the April 26th committee meetings; they were waiting, I thought, for your discussion tonight. Glenn said we have received no formal response to the Mayor's letter from Council. Schroeder said there has been some informal discussion with Tom Kneeland; with various members of the commission; fact

finding mission by Kneeland. I feel that basically, in my opinion, civil service has operated on a very good foundation; reputation of doing what is best; if the new architects in the administration want us to take a new role then the administration and Council should forward an appropriate communication to the next commission that overlooks the charter; then they should send it on to the voters to decide; if that is the new approach to be taken; right now charter language in 13.04 is very explicit; the CSC shall have the power to adopt rules and regulations concerning the selection, promotion, demotion, discipline, and removal of employees within the classified service, provided such rules shall be approved by Council; that is what we are waiting for; other section says powers and duties are not intended as a limitation, rather CSC has fullest authority permitted under Home Rule provisions of Ohio Constitution.

Renner said through informal discussion he thought something would be coming from Council by now; spent countless hours in partnership with the administration working on the rules; Council has to come back to us if they want to scrap it; we have worked a lot of hours.

A motion was made by Schroeder, seconded by Renner, that the Clerk of Council forward appropriate communication to Council that the Civil Service Commission would appreciate a written communication from them with their direction on the previously submitted Rules & Regulations by the Civil Service Commission. The motion carried by the following vote:

Absent	1	Leithart
Yes	4	Schroeder, Essex, Renner and Glenn

6. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0020

To Certify the Eligibility List for Police Radio Dispatcher/Communications Officer established March 20, 2010.

Jernigan said 32 people did pass the test.

A motion was made by Essex, seconded by Schroeder, to Certify the Eligibility List. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes	4	Schroeder, Essex, Renner and Glenn
Absent	1	Leithart

7. CORRESPONDENCE AND ACTIONS

2010-0021

Correspondence from Dan Rotella, Director of Business Affairs, Gahanna-Jefferson Schools, approving removal of non-teaching employee at the March 11, 2010 Board of Education Meeting.

Jernigan said this is FYI; the time frame for the employee to file anything has passed.

8. OFFICIAL REPORTS

a. Director of Human Resources

Treadway said even though the rules were put forth with me in the room I do want to say it may have seemed that I was in agreement but back about 3 years ago many of the changes addressed in the Mayor's memo of Feb. 22, 2010 were pointed out by the administration that they wanted to see changed; with the change over of commission members I would like to note that this did not just come up; these were changes that the

administration had wanted to see for several years; did have a meeting with the then President of Council and the commission about many of these changes; throughout the process I tried to express concerns but never felt I got good answers.

b. Chairman

Schroeder said he would like to commend Jernigan for her work at the radio dispatcher test.

10. POLL COMMISSION FOR COMMENT

Essex asked how the new application software was working. Treadway said we did send out an email to the candidates that gave them their scores and ranking and it worked well; has been a trial with seasonal folks; will be upgrading to their newest software after summer. There was discussion about the fact that the candidates having to pay the filing fee at the test may have been why only about half who applied came to the test. It was agreed that the process of having a police officer outside giving candidates information, and then having the candidates come in to pay the \$10 filing fee first, before coming to the civil service table to check in ran very smoothly.

Renner said I would like to apologize for not being at the radio dispatcher test; completely slipped my mind until I ran into Jeff Spence the next week. Glenn said she did come to the test to observe and it was very interesting.

11. ADJOURNMENT: 7:00 p.m.; Motion by Essex.

**Isobel L. Sherwood, MMC
Clerk of Council**

*APPROVED by the Civil Service Commission, this
day of 2010.*

Chair Signature