

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

January 28, 2020

A meeting of the Public Safety Committee was held this date beginning at 2:05 p.m., at 80 Broad Street, City Hall, First Floor Conference Room

Notice of this meeting was sent to all local news media.

PRESENT

Councilmember Shahid, Chair, Councilmember Seekings, Councilmember Sakran, Councilmember Shealy and Mayor Tecklenburg (arrived at 2:12 p.m.) **Staff:** Chief Curia, Steve Ruemelin, Jason Kronsberg, Edmund Most, Beth Brownlee, Amy Wharton, and Bethany Whitaker, Council Secretary

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence provided by Chief Curia.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2020 meeting were deferred.

Fire Station #11 Update

Executive Session in accordance with Section 30-4-70(a)(2) of the South Carolina Code to receive legal advice relating to Fire Station #11 if necessary

On a motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Councilmember Sakran, the Committee voted unanimously to go into executive session at 2:06 p.m.

On a motion of Councilmember Sakran, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, the Committee voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 2:45 p.m.

Chairman Shahid stated that no action was taken in executive session.

On a motion of Councilmember Seekings, seconded by Councilmember Shealy, the Committee voted unanimously to authorize the Mayor to take any and all action available to him regarding the contract moving forward with Fire Station #11.

A Resolution urging the South Carolina General Assembly to adopt H. 3063, "Hate Bill." (Requested by Councilmember Perry K. Waring)

On the motion of Councilmember Shealy, seconded by Mayor Tecklenburg, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the above item.

Discussion of Municipal Judge Appointments

Chairman Shahid said that he and Susan had met to discuss this. They had two positions available. One was a funded DUI judge, and another was to take Judge Mendelsohn's position. They had nine resumes.

They didn't have any set criteria except that the person had to be a member of good standing on the South Carolina BAR. He would recommend that they schedule the nine individuals for interviews. He would propose that he sit in on the interviews, along with Ms. Herdina and either the rest of the Committee or one other member of the Committee.

Ms. Herdina said that if there were two members of the Committee that wanted to sit in, Chairman Shahid and one other member, there wouldn't be a quorum issue and they could just go ahead and set up the meetings. If the Committee all wanted to participate, they could do that, but then they would have to notice it and they would go into executive session to talk about the candidate. The applications were confidential and they didn't have any obligation under FOIA to release any names until they had made a recommendation to the Mayor. She asked that they keep the information confidential.

Councilmember Shealy asked if the people at the interview would be the ones to decide on the candidate. Councilmember Shahid said that they would report back to the full Committee the pros and cons of each candidate and who they would recommend. They could give the Mayor four names, and then the Mayor could select the two needed. That was one way of doing it. Ms. Herdina said that the question was whether the full Committee wanted to interview each candidate, or if two people from the Committee wanted to sit in and make a recommendation to the full Committee. They were open to whatever process they wanted to do. Councilmember Shealy said he would recommend that the full Committee do the interview process. Councilmember Sakran said he was neutral on it. His background on this was limited. Councilmember Seekings said he would like to be part of the interview process however it worked out. Councilmember Shahid said that if they did come to one set of interviews, they had to come to all of them. It wouldn't be fair to the candidates if they didn't sit in on all of the interviews. They needed to get everybody's schedules. He asked the Mayor if he wanted to participate in the interviews. Mayor Tecklenburg said he probably wouldn't. Ms. Herdina said she would have a list of questions, so that everyone was asked the same ones.

Having no further business, the Committee adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Bethany Whitaker
Council Secretary