



CITY OF TOPEKA

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE: POLICE & COMMUNITY

CITY COUNCIL
City Hall, 215 SE 7th Street, Suite 255
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Date: June 3, 2022

Time: 2:00pm

Location: 1st floor conference room; Holliday Bldg 620 SE Madison (*virtual attendance was available as well*)

Committee members present: Councilmembers Karen Hiller, Sylvia Ortiz (Chair), Mayor Michael Padilla

City staff present: Chief Bryan Wheelles (TPD)

1) Call to Order

Chairwoman Ortiz called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. Committee members introduced themselves. Chairwoman Ortiz asked to take a moment of silence for all of the officers...not just in Topeka, but for all with recent events. And for the citizens and those grieving during this time.

2) Approve minutes from March 24, 2022 meeting

Committee member Hiller made a motion to approve the minutes. Committee member Padilla seconded the motion. Motion approved 3:0.

3) Discussion: Q&A for Recommendations

Chairwoman Ortiz noted the draft recommendation list was sent to the Committee's webpage at 2:00pm, for public viewing. This list was not made available to any parties within the Committee, Police Department, or other prior to this moment. The Committee took a few minutes to review the document before proceeding with discussion. [The Draft Recommendations can be found at <https://www.topeka.org/citycouncil/police-community>].

Chairwoman Ortiz noted that the draft document presented was a compilation of the recommendations that each Committee member had submitted.

Committee member Hiller inquired about the timeline. Chairwoman Ortiz noted that she would like to hear from the Committee and Chief Wheelles today on the draft document. She would also like to set the public input session date. For the Public Input meeting, participants will be allowed to speak one time, and will have four minutes to address the Committee. Following that meeting, the Committee can set another meeting, if it is felt that one is needed, to make any changes and

finalize the recommendations with a vote by the Committee with a final presentation then moving to the Governing Body.

Chairwoman Ortiz stated she felt that the Committee had covered all of the topics that had been presented by the Governing Body, Committee, and members of the community, and inquired about how many public input sessions the Committee felt would want to hold.

Committee member Hiller stated that currently, she felt one public input session may be sufficient. However, she would like to have a bit of time to review the draft document and compare along with her notes to process and think on before being able to make a more complete recommendation.

Committee member Padilla inquired if the public input session would be a time for conversation? Or only to provide a set amount of time to give feedback based on the document? And, would the Committee meet again to complete the draft before moving it to the Public?

Chairwoman Ortiz stated she would be amiable to have the Committee meet again in the near future to finalize the draft document, or to take this draft to the public as it is and then meet to re-work the draft in order to complete the set of recommendations that would move forward to the Governing Body.

Chairwoman Ortiz suggested walking through the document section by section and perhaps taking a vote on whether to move that section on for recommendation or to change it at a future meeting.

Committee member Padilla suggested moving this draft document, as presented, to the public for their input and then bring the document back to the Committee to create the finalized Committee recommendation.

Committee member Padilla inquired if there was a way to begin collecting public input on the document, now that it has been posted online? Chairwoman Ortiz indicated that it was likely the Committee and Governing Body would likely begin receiving input, but would like to look at setting public input meetings.

4) Discussion: Set Date(s) for Public Input Session(s)

Committee member Padilla suggested having the Committee meet on June 10th to allow for each Committee member to reflect on and bring feedback to, and to take a vote on each section. This would then create the preliminary recommendation from the Committee. Then, to give the public a week to read that version of the document, and schedule the public input meeting on June 17th. And moving the final recommendations to the Governing Body on July 5th.

Committee member Hiller inquired about how the information would be sent out to the public and others. Chairwoman Ortiz stated she would be sending out communications following the meeting.

Committee member Hiller suggested titling the document “Draft 6/3/22” for the online document to assist with other versions that may come out during this process. Chairwoman Ortiz agreed and directed the Council Assistant to make the change.

Chairwoman Ortiz stated she felt good about the work the Committee had done, and that they were able to really put in the effort and thought to ensure that all concerns were addressed.

Committee member Hiller noted there had been a lot of good things that had happened and evolved during the course of this process within the Police Department, and thanked Chief Wheelles for his openness to the suggestions, as they evolved, and implemented some of the changes within the policies and procedures, and even some of the bigger programs like SAVE. She recognized that a lot of good things have happened in the course of this time, and was appreciative of that work as well.

5) Other Items

No additional items.

6) Adjourn

Chairwoman Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 2:48pm.

Meeting recording can be found at: <https://youtu.be/pIGPWAalngE>